

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

V. L. LVII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 1903.

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BIRTHS.

On the 27th December, at Tientsin, the wife of H. SCHILL, of a daughter.
On the 30th December, at Ningpo, the wife of H. BISMARCK, I.M.C., of a daughter.
On the 2nd January, at 2, Astor Terrace, Shanghai, the wife of GEO. PEARSON, of a son.
On the 5th January, at 2, Whangpoo Road, Shanghai, the wife of WALTER F. HARRIS, of a daughter.
On the 9th January, at Muirhead Road, Shanghai, the wife of JOHN BLECHYNDEN, of a son.
On the 12th January, at No. 10, Seymour Terrace, the wife of C. H. LAMMERT, of a son.
On the 13th January, at 1, Queen's Gardens, the wife of Capt. F. D. GODDARD, Marine Surveyor, of a daughter.
On the 13th January, at 2, Bowring Villas, the wife of SIDNEY J. POWELL, Assoc. M. Inst. C.E., of a son.
On the 14th January, at No. 9, Caine Road, "Fair View," Hongkong, the wife of EDUARDO J. DE FIGUEIREDO, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 10th November, at Chungking, HAROLD SHELDON, the second and only surviving son of the Rev. J. and Mrs. PARKER, aged 3 years and 9 months.
On the 22nd December, at Nanking, PAUL WADSWORTH, the only son of the Rev. WILBUR A. and JULIA B. ESTES (the latter deceased), aged 1 month and 3 days.
On the 5th January, at 22, Canton Road, Shanghai, of consumption, ZELIE JEANNE ROSA HUNNEX, aged 20 years.
On the 6th January, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, WILLIAM PRUN, Acting Chief Gaoler of H.B.M.'s Gaol, aged 53 years.
On the 10th January, at Shanghai, ARTHUR RICHARD MILLER, late of Forbes & Co., aged 31 years.
On the 14th January at Folkestone, Mrs. H. M. PLAYFAIR, widow of the late Lieut. Colonel G. W. PLAYFAIR, Madras Staff Corps, and mother of GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR, Hongkong, aged 71 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The French mail of the 12th December arrived per N.Y.K. steamer *Hakata Maru* and M.M. steamer *Salazie*, on the 14th January (23 days); and the American mail of the 19th December arrived per T.K.K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 16th January (24 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Japanese telegram from London on the 30th December says that Russia is despatching seven additional destroyers to the Pacific.

The Chinese official holidays in Chihli begin on January 17 and end on February 16. Seals will be locked and put away during these days, and only urgent business transacted. The pressure of work does not look as if it were extreme.

M. Delcassé, meeting one of the French Colonial party's chief objections to the Siamese Treaty, has concluded an additional clause, by which Siam engages to erect no new fortifications in the provinces of Battambang and Si-m-reap or within 25 kilometres of the right bank of the Mekong.

The budget of the German China garrison provides 200,000 marks as first payment of a hospital in Peking, which will cost 570,220 marks. 2,100,000 marks will be necessary to satisfy the claims of private soldiers. China will pay the interest now overdue in monthly instalments of Tls. 250,000 each whereof Germany will get in all Tls. 600,470.

The *New York Post* states on unquestionable authority (our London correspondent telegraphs) that Mr. Hay, the United States Secretary of State, has made a strong declaration in support of China's contention that four hundred millions Haikwan taels are all China can pay without serious financial difficulties. The United States intends to accept payment on that basis.

A telegram to *L'Echo de Chine* says that a new decree reports the decrees of the last and 23rd of April, 1902, in reference to the organisation of the French forces in the Far East and in the Atlantic. The report which precedes the decree states meanwhile the utility of maintaining the reserve division at Saigon united to the Far Eastern squadron under the same command.

The *Sin Wan Pao's* Nanking correspondent writes that the case of the *Kowshing*, which was sunk by the Japanese while she was on her way to Corea in 1894, has been dragging along for several years and has not been settled. Lately, the British Government again telegraphed to its Minister at Peking instructing him to reopen the matter with the Chinese Government. It has been settled now that China is to pay Great Britain Tls. 280,000 in order to settle the whole matter, and the sum is to be borne by the Nanking administration, the Nanking Treasury to subscribe one half and the other half to be subscribed by the Soochow Treasury.

The Hunan correspondent of a Shanghai native writes that the Chengchow authorities are now selecting a suitable site for the erection of a monument to the memory of the two murdered English missionaries. At the same time the Magistrate has sent workmen to Chiayang to procure large stones which are to be consigned to Chengchow by boats and carts. In consequence heavy expenditure will be involved but the stones in Chiayang are noted for their uniform white colour almost resembling jade stone. Probably the monument will be completed in April next. The native converts have all returned and resumed their former occupations while the civil and military authorities are more vigilant than ever in protecting the missionaries.

With reference to the disturbance in Kansu of which we wrote on the 13th inst., it is interesting to note that H.E. Sung Fan, Viceroy of Shensi and Kansu, recently telegraphed to the authorities of Chihli stating that "there has been difficulties between the Mahomedans and disbanded soldiers in Kansu with the result that rumours were invented that they were anti-Christian crusades so that the missionaries at Ping Liang were about to take refuge in quieter regions. I at once appointed deputies to investigate and preserve peace and the local authorities used every effort to retain missionaries and promised every protection, so the latter have not left as intended. Now the disbanded soldiers have been dispersed and this province is as quiet as can be."

Important changes are contemplated in the U.S. Philippine Commission. It is probable that within a few months Judge William H. Taft, chairman of the Commission and Governor of the Philippine Islands, will resign to accept a place on the United States Supreme Court bench, and that Mr. W. W. Rookhill, now chief of the Bureau of American Republics, will be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Philippine Commission created by Judge Taft's transfer to the Supreme Court at Washington. When he has been promoted to the Supreme Court it will be in fulfillment of a promise of President McKinley. Judge Taft resigned from the Federal Circuit bench in Ohio to accept the chairmanship of the Philippine Commission at the urgent solicitation of the late U.S. President.

The agitation to remove Li Yo-Yok, one of the Ministers of State in Corea, still continues, but without effect, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, the Emperor strongly refusing to listen to the agitation. The trouble is said to be due to jealousy among the officials. It appears, however, that the Japanese Government has intervened in the dispute. A Seoul telegram to the *Mainichi* states that, in reply to a Note addressed to the Korean Government urging the dismissal of Li Yo-Yok, who is said to be under the protection of a foreign Government, the Korean Government stated that Li Yo-Yok was not appointed to his office by the recommendation of the Russian Minister, but by the command of the Emperor, and he was not under the protection of any foreign Power. A request was therefore made that the Japanese Government should withdraw its advice. M. Stein, the Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* in Seoul, has addressed a Note to the Japanese *Chargé d'Affaires*, declaring that Russia has no intention of gaining any advantage through Li Yo-Yok.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 15th January.)

It is at least surprising, if nothing more, that, in spite of the immense importance of the currency question to everyone engaged in business transactions in Hongkong, and in spite of the keen interest now displayed over this matter in the Straits Settlements, no public discussion has arisen in Hongkong with regard to the possibility of establishing a gold standard, and that the action of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on the 23rd December, when it was decided to adhere to the Chamber's previous attitude and not to call a special general meeting, has been allowed to pass practically without challenge. It might reasonably be inferred from this, did we not know otherwise, that the constituency which the Chamber of Commerce represents and the Colony generally were convinced that a gold standard is either undesirable or impossible in Hongkong. But anyone who has the slightest knowledge of the feeling in this matter locally is well aware that such is not the case. Mr. C. S. SHARP, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, at the meeting of the 23rd ultimo, announced himself quite prepared to find "much diversity of opinion on the part of the general body of members, as well as among the public generally," in spite of the conclusions which might be arrived at round the Chamber's Committee table. After this declaration it seems a little inconsistent at least not to give a chance for the expression of the diversity of opinion anticipated. Mr. SHARP, it is true, dreaded a desultory discussion with no result. We venture to think that this is not inevitable. At the meeting of the 23rd December the case for the retention of the present system was admirably stated, from an oratorical point of view, and the arguments carried those attending away. But unfortunately the assembly present could not be described as unbiassed to begin with. However impartial and discriminating a man may be, his own interests must weigh with him. Hence the fact that no presentation of the case for the gold standard was heard cannot be taken as an indication that all the higher intelligence of Hongkong is set firmly against the introduction of that standard. What we want is a sober discussion of the two sides of the question. At the present moment the public knows that the fall of the dollar and the fluctuation of exchange weighs upon it heavily, while to a certain number of people these financial movements are advantageous. It therefore vaguely ranges itself on the side of currency alteration. It sees the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce declining a more general discussion on the question and adhering to its former opinion for fear of harm and of "creating a bad impression." Is it not natural that the public should be rather mystified? We cannot help thinking that the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce made a great mistake in closing, so to speak, the discussion on the currency question. Those in this Colony with an open mind, and they are exceedingly numerous, desire nothing more than to hear the two cases stated fairly and in open court. The supporters of the present financial system err seriously if they think that by hushing things up they will induce a state of contentment. A great number of people see themselves brought by the gradual fall of the dollar to such a state that they appear to be on the edge of an abyss, beyond which there waits for them below financial ruin. Generalisation about trade leaving Hong-

kong after the establishment of a gold standard will not inspire such people with the spirit of resignation. Nor is it to be imagined that this class is small; the heavy depression in almost every branch of trade and in the stock market last year is all that that need be quoted in this respect.

We have been favoured with the advance sheets of an article in the January number of the *Asiatic Quarterly*, containing an article by Mr. ROBERT H. ELLIOT on the "Economic Effects of Recent Indian Currency Legislation," originally read before the East India Association. Mr. ELLIOT's main contention is that the Indian Government did not perceive that its method of creating a "stable" exchange at an artificially enhanced rate, which was liable to be still further enhanced at its will, instead of developing would seriously injure the industries of the country and thus at once diminish the means of employment and the rate of wages, "results which have already occurred in consequence of the currency measure." Into Mr. ELLIOT's arguments we have not the space here to enter; it must suffice to say that he certainly does not prove that the fixing of a stable rate of exchange for the rupee has ruined India. He shows that planters, mill-owners, and other producers would be better pleased with a less than sixteen-penny rupee - which is a very different matter. But when he writes of the fixed rate acting as a bounty in favour of competing countries, Mr. ELLIOT can only refer to silver countries, whereas a great portion of India's trade is with gold countries, when the fixed exchange is in favour of India. The great problem, of course, in connection with the transition of any silver country to the gold ranks lies in its dealings with other silver and gold countries, and it is on this point that enlightenment is particularly required in Hongkong. A letter appearing in another column over the signature of "X" mentions this matter, and we would particularly call our readers' attention to it. The tendency all over the world is to "go gold," and the defenders of the existing state of affairs in Hongkong must be prepared to show how we shall escape evil consequences if we are left alone with China as the partisans of silver. The question is not one which can be disposed of summarily, and its discussion cannot be considered as concluded, even for the moment, because of the decision of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on the 23rd December.

THE THREAT FROM TUNG FU-HSIANG.

(Daily Press, 13th January.)

That TUNG FU-HSIANG and Prince TUAN are plotting rebellion on a grand style in the provinces of Kansu and Shensi there seems now little doubt. There is also little doubt that a rebellion in these provinces would be fraught with great danger to China. It would, nevertheless, be rash to assume that such a rebellion is likely to be countenanced by the present Government or by any considerable party in Peking. It has been for twenty centuries part of the traditional policy of China to maintain its influence over these distant provinces, and more than once or twice the Empire has strained every nerve to repress all attempts at disaffection in these outlying districts, which at no time have been a source of profit, but very much the reverse, to the Empire at large. This was the keynote to the desperate struggles made by the Chinese to recover possession of Kashgar and Ili, which had been taken from China by the Amcer YAKUB in the year

1865, and the diplomatic pressure brought to bear on Russia, which finally resulted in the rendition, in 1881, of Ili to China after having been occupied for several years by her northern neighbour, nominally as the man-in-possession for China. Such also was the mainspring of the barbarian TAO TSUNG-TANG's campaign in Turkestan, which resulted in his handing back to China the entire of what is now known as the "New Dominion," after having completed the destruction of the land, and the almost entire depopulation of the huge domain stretching from Kanchowfu westwards up to the eastern slopes of the Pamirs. Tso was indeed victorious, but his victory was a dear one for China, and the cry for vengeance that went up after his barbarities, which for hundreds of miles left not a living being alive, nor a blade of grass where once extended wide pastures, are now having their natural result in the hatred of the new generation but now tardily beginning to occupy the ruined homes of their slaughtered ancestors. In this unnatural contest Tso spared neither friend nor foe, age nor sex; and TUNG FU-HSIANG, who learnt the art under such a master, by a just recompense has come to exercise it against the employers of his former chief. To complete the fitness of the retribution TUNG was himself a traitor to his former associates; lured by Chinese promises and Chinese gold, he deserted his own people, and proved one of the most ruthless of the ruthless officers of Tso's army. His natural instincts found congenial employment in the events of 1900, but they were thereby only whetted, and doubtless he will, should the opportunity be forthcoming, be all the better pleased to exercise them against the plunderers of his former compatriots. But, if TUNG has thus a heritage of hatred to fall back on, it is unlikely that his former cruelties will be forgotten, and it is this which deprives his projected rebellion of its chief hope of success. Disaffected spirits of like nature to TUNG himself will doubtless be found to answer his call, as desperate men are ever ready to follow for a time a leader who offers them unlimited plunder. But TUNG is at least as much hated as feared by his own compatriots, and the majority of the population of these districts, though thoroughly disaffected towards China, are unlikely to forget his former desertion and its consequences towards themselves. Prince TUAN himself is unlikely to be in better odour; although Tso was a Chinaman he was carrying out the orders and policy of the Manchu Government, and TUAN himself stands too near to the Throne to be a *persona grata* to an indigenous population; nor will his precious son, who for a short period was named as heir presumptive to the Imperial throne, and who it is stated has been brought out at Hsian as the new Emperor, be any more likely to lend any assistance to the movement. Few opportunities are afforded in China for the expression of popular feeling towards individuals, especially if those individuals stand in close relation to the Throne, but there is no doubt that the feelings with which the young heir presumptive was regarded by the nation at large were those of intense and unconcealed contempt. Even if TUNG FU-HSIANG's and Prince TUAN's records were mere tempting with any section of the Chinese people, the prominence given to the young heir would be sufficient to wreck their hopes of a successful rising. But if the movement contain in itself the inevitable seeds of eventual failure, there is unfortunately no room for doubt that it is the power of the two arch conspirators to inflict a grievous wound, and

that we should not be justified in ignoring the movement. And this brings us to the consideration of what has been attempted in some quarters to set forward as a grievance, and that is the seeming disfavour into which the Hupeh Viceroy, CHANG CHIH TUNG, is represented to have fallen with the powers that be. That CHANG has deserved well of his country is not to be denied, and no foreigner would desire to see any discredit cast upon him. At the same time, it is not right to forget that the salvation of China in 1900 was due entirely to the inspiration of the aged Viceroy at Nanking, and that had it not been for the statesmanship of LIU, his colleague at Wuchang, would have cut but a sorry figure. Nor did CHANG commend himself to the people of Kiangsu when on a previous occasion he held the seals as Viceroy of the Lower Provinces. We do not mean to allege that affairs are progressing satisfactorily at Peking; far from it, they are in hands at once feeble and dishonest, and need to be narrowly looked after. This is, however, by no means a reason why we should seek to complicate them still further by imputing wrong motives to every action. The scenery of good men is heavily felt in China, now that she has lost the services of two such faithful subjects as LIU KUNG YI and TAO MU, but that is all the more reason why we should be disposed to look with hope on the recent appointments. Unfortunately we do not know sufficient of the new men appointed to pronounce a definite judgment, and it is therefore only reasonable to give them the opportunity without carping criticism to show of what they are capable.

RUSSIA AND COREA.

(Daily Press, 12th January.)

The state of affairs between Great Britain and Russia at the present moment appears to be particularly unquiet, a fact which will perhaps justify us for so frequently touching in these columns on matters involving the country ruled by the Tsar. Just now there are three points in particular at which British and Russian interests come into direct conflict, over the Dardanelles, in Persia and Afghanistan, and in North-eastern Asia. Neither of the first two questions concern us much out here, except in so far as they tend to produce friction between the two great Powers involved. The Dardanelles affair is really an international matter, for not only Britain but also all the leading Powers of Europe are affected by Russia's violation of the Treaty of Paris. The fact that Germany is inclined to give in to Russia is a sign of the continuance of modern German policy, and we are therefore rather surprised at the imitation manifested at home. France naturally takes the side of her ally. If Austria and Italy, as reported probable, agree with Great Britain, they will only be consulting their own interests, for neither of them can desire to see a new maritime Power in the Mediterranean, which is what is portended by Turkey yielding to Russia in the present dispute. As for the activity of Russia in Persia and on the Afghanist frontier, and the attitude of which the latest manifestation is the statement of the St. Petersburg *Novoye Vremya*, commenting on Major Macmahon's mission to Sistan, that private disputes between Persia and Afghanistan are no concern of England, and that Russia cannot witness the despatch of the mission unmoved, these are all of a piece with Russia's steady policy of encroachment and advance in Central Asia. It is obviously the intention of the Russian extremists to lead up to an

ultimate challenge of Britain's supremacy in Afghanistan. In Persia, Russia has already got a very firm foothold, but in Afghanistan she has at present to play a very quiet, not to say underhand, game. Turning to Russia's line of action in North China and Corea, we arrive at a question which concerns us far more intimately, for a weak British policy in the North cannot but produce immediate effects in Central and South China. With the Manchurian question, as it now stands, we dealt briefly a few days ago. Since then a new Russian move in Corea has been reported. It is to be noted that Russia recently abated her activity in Corea, concentrating her attention on Manchuria. Now that the occupation of Manchuria is an accomplished fact, she pretends once more to re-open the Korean question on the old lines. Frequently in the past have we seen attempts to get Corea to adopt a Russian as principal adviser, almost as frequently have the Koreans been urged to unite their telegraph system with that of Russia—a proposal not in itself menacing, but dangerous as part of the Russian game. The visit of such a dignitary as the Korean Crown Prince to St. Petersburg is also an old ruse. All tends to show that the screw is once more being put on Corea, at a moment when Russia is moving in two other extremities of Asia. It is impossible not to admire the skill which marks the triple stroke. Surely it may be thought, one of these three disputes must result favourably to Russia, and if in the other two she is defeated she will at any rate suffer no loss. A grave cause for anxiety arises from the doubt whether the British Government will be sufficiently wide awake to watch the outcome in all three regions of the world. Under Lord SALISBURY'S leadership, its record in Asiatic affairs was not particularly glorious, in some respects it was even painfully bad. There are not wanting indications of a change for the better, but the task which is apparently before Great Britain is an arduous one. There is fortunately, however, an aspect of the Korean question, the principal aspect indeed, which presents the case more favourably for us. The chief country interested in the non-alienation of Corea is Japan, our new ally, and Japan's concern in Korean affairs can hardly be denied even by the warmest friends of Russia, who cannot but admit that Japan has a right to ask what Russia intends and that she is deeply affected by the continual march of the other toward her frontiers. As long as Japan is an independent country, she cannot afford to see anything approaching to Russian suzerainty in Corea. In our alliance with Japan we may see the best guarantee against extension of the Russian frontier further eastward than it now lies—which we are now compelled to admit is on the Korean border.

The Russian cruiser *Admiral Nachimoff* arrived at Singapore on the 6th inst. and was expected to stay three weeks or so, as she is awaiting the arrival of a new commander, her previous commander having died at Saigon. The *Admiral Nachimoff*, which is homeward bound, had the Grand Duke Cyril on board.

It is rumoured, says the *Japan Mail*, that the only high personage opposed to Viceroy Yun's project for the discrediting of Cheng is Prince Ching. After Prince Ching's double dealing in the matter of the Yangtze Valley, China's interests would seem to suggest that he be included in Sheng's fall from power. Foreign opinion has always been favourable to him, and we hesitate to express any definite views about the misfortunes now overtaking him.

THE WORSHIP OF CONFUCIUS.

(Daily Press, 14th January.)

We find in a recent issue of the *N.-C. Daily News* an article dealing with the treatment by missionaries in China of the "worship" of CONFUCIUS. The author of this article is Dr. W. A. P. MARTIN, whose name must compel respect from all those who have the slightest acquaintance with missionary and educational work in China. The subject is one which has given rise to some little discussion of late, not only in missionary circles, and the views of so experienced a man as Dr. MARTIN must therefore be all the more welcomed. It could be predicted that there would be nothing narrow or bigoted in these views; the reader need not expect to be told that the honour paid to the greatest of China's sages is "idolatry," that catch-word of so many well-meaning but ill-instructed preachers of Christianity to foreign nations. It is true that Dr. MARTIN prefaces his remarks in the *North-China Daily News* with the question, "Is it idolatry?" but the answer he gives distinctly is that it is not. The article on CONFUCIUS-worship seems to have been suggested by a point brought up in the annual report of the Diffusion Society, namely the question as to what is the best way to secure proper regard on the part of the Chinese Government for the rights of conscience, which as long as China disregards she must lag behind other nations. But Dr. MARTIN is far from looking on the matter in any one-sided way. This is proved by one paragraph in his brief article, which we take the liberty of reproducing here. He says:—"The expulsion of a student from the university of Shantung for refusing to bow the knee to CONFUCIUS is a disgrace to the country. But while I thus express myself in regard to the narrow view of the Chinese, I cannot refrain from saying that there is room for a change of view on our side of the question. For myself, I hold strongly that there is nothing idolatrous in the worship of CONFUCIUS. He is not described as a God; nor is he invoked as such. The inscription on his tablet makes him 'the most holy of the ancient sages.' Honour to his memory as China's greatest teacher is all that the rite signifies—notwithstanding the grovelling and abject form of the ceremony." This is an admirably enlightened standpoint, which does the greatest credit to the man who holds by it. The writer goes on to compare another Chinese rite which is purely civil, the "worship" of the tablet of the living Emperor, of which he says:—"How ever little we may admire this sort of man-worship, it is man-worship and not the worship of God. It is not forbidden to Christian official; nor is the worship of the sage forbidden." The worship of CONFUCIUS was forbidden by the Papacy to the Roman Catholic converts, and other Christian proselytisers have followed the Romanist policy. Dr. MARTIN calls on "Protestant" missionaries to take an independent stand and to teach their converts to look on the worship of CONFUCIUS as a merely civil rite. "The conscience of our Christians," he says, "would at once be set free and one of the greatest barriers to the spread of Christianity would be taken out of the way." The immensity of the barrier will, we fancy, be questioned by none who have any knowledge of the labour of introducing Christianity among Chinese. For more than two thousand years have the Emperors

of China been Confucianists; indeed it is proverbially an indispensable quality of the Emperor. The Mongol dynasty inaugurated by KUBLAI KHAN was no sooner seated on the throne before Confucianism became its rule. The present dynasty has followed in its steps. Among all the educated the Confucian rule has prevailed, and the foundations of Chinese political and social life are the precepts of this remarkable system. The honour paid to the philosopher's memory, which is what is meant by the expression "CONFUCIUS-worship" is but the most outward sign of this. To miscall this "idolatry" and thus make it impossible for a Chinese convert at once to be a Christian and to be, from the Chinese point of view, a good citizen, can in no way be considered wisdom. We trust that Dr. MARTIN's words will not be allowed to pass unheeded.

BUILDING COLLAPSES IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 14th January.)

With the conclusion yesterday of the enquiry into the fatal building collapse in Tung Loi Lane, the series of collapse enquiries came to an end. The net result of four months of magisterial investigation, legal eloquence, and public attention, as shown by the jury, is that no one has been found responsible for the deaths of thirty Chinese, caused by the falling of the various buildings. There were in all five cases, beginning with the Kowloon City Road case, involving the death of ten men; here the magisterial enquiry failed to locate any blame. Next came the First Street collapse, where one man was killed; the contractor was committed for trial, but discharged at the Criminal Sessions. Third was the Second Street affair, where the victims numbered four; two contractors were committed for trial, but also discharged when the case had come to the Supreme Court. Fourth was the Praya East collapse, killing thirteen; the architects and contractor were committed for trial, but the Attorney-General, acting in the capacity of a grand jury, threw out the bill. Lastly there was the Tung Loi Lane case, which ended yesterday; two men were killed, but the jury could not assign the blame. We do not propose to go into the details of these cases nor to say that the ultimate verdict in each enquiry was not the one pointed out by the facts. There were great difficulties involved in the task of getting to the bottom of all five cases, and those concerned had laborious tasks with which to cope. But it cannot be held otherwise than deplorable that the conditions of this Colony make it possible for a series of building collapses to occur, leading to the death of thirty human beings, without any censure attaching to anyone concerned. It is not long ago since, after a certain number of collapses, public opinion was demanding enquiry into the circumstances. Now we have had the enquiries, and after all no one is better or the worse for them. Yet perhaps it is not quite true to say that The Colony is the better off, inasmuch as there is now proved what was before very strongly felt, that the whole system of building supervision in Hongkong in the past has been wrong and that it is practically no better now. There is no call for "hanging" anyone; we must hang the system.

The Negri Sembilan estimates for this year show an estimated revenue of \$1,754,264 as against \$1,669,353 for 1902. Customs are responsible for more than a million dollars and license for \$420,035. The contemplated expenditure is \$1,813,132.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

We have received for publication copies of the following correspondence:—

IMPERIAL CABLE COMMUNICATIONS.

Botolph House, Eastcheap,
London, E.C., 28th May, 1902.

DEAR SIR.—At the Fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in London in June, 1900, the following resolution on Imperial Telegraphic Communication was carried unanimously:—

"That Congress desires to call special attention to the necessity of completing the All-British Pacific Cable, not only on commercial grounds, but in the interests of the Imperial security.

"That this Congress recommends that support should be given to the action which the Imperial Telegraph Committee of the House of Commons is taking with the view of placing the important matter of electrical communication between the United Kingdom, India, and the British Colonies and Dependencies on a footing commensurate with the present conditions of Inter-Imperial and Colonial relations.

"That copies of this resolution be addressed to the Prime Minister, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for India, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Postmaster General and the Governors of the self-governing Colonies, urging that every reasonable opportunity may be given in Parliament for discussion of the position of the Telegraph Companies in relation to the Government, with a view to an immediate and satisfactory solution being found for the very serious grievances under which the commercial and industrial community of the Empire have been labouring for a long time past.

"That in view of the great object to be attained, this Congress is strongly of the opinion that it would be a wise policy to make full provision for ultimate State ownership in any arrangements hereafter made to lay cables, by private companies, between British possessions in any part of the globe.

"That this Congress recommends that the principle of State ownership be specially provided for in the cable proposal to be laid by a private company between South Africa and Australia.

"That this Congress urges upon His Majesty's Government the importance of instituting a searching investigation by the Departmental Committee, promissory by the Government, into both the shortcomings and the merits of a private system of cables, and consequently into the desirability or otherwise of adopting such a course or policy in the future as would lead to the ultimate appropriation of private cables and the establishment of State-owned cables throughout the Empire, and to report thereon at the earliest opportunity; such a report to be accessible to the public."

With reference to the first paragraph of the above resolution, you are doubtless fully cognizant of the good progress that is being made with the Pacific Cable, which has reached Fiji, and is expected to be completed by about the end of the present year.

As has already been reported to you, the resolution was forwarded to the Minister and Colonial Governors mentioned in the third paragraph therein, and duly acknowledged. The Secretary of State for India promised that the suggestions should receive consideration so far as India was concerned, on receipt of the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Cable Communications which had been appointed by the Government and was then sitting; while the Lord Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury stated that this Chamber's letter had been referred to that Committee.

I now write to call your attention to the fact that the Inter-Departmental Committee has issued its report, which is signed by Lord Balfour of Burleigh (Chairman); Lord Londonderry (Postmaster-General); Mr. Harbury (President of the Board of Agriculture); Lord Hardwicke (Under Secretary of State for India); Lord Onslow (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies); Sir John C. Ardagh (Director of Military Intelligence); and Rear-Admiral Cuthbert (Director of Naval Intelligence). The

principal recommendations and conclusions of the Committee are summarised as follows:—

1. In view of the probability of cable-cutting, a variety of alternative routes should be provided wherever it is essential to secure telegraphic communication in time of war.

2. Appreciable but not paramount value should be attached to the provision of "All-British" routes. Every important Colony or Naval base should be connected with this country by one cable touching only British territory or on the territory of some friendly neutral. After this there should be as many alternative cables as possible following commercial routes.

3. We recommend the construction of:—(a) A cable connecting either R. driguez and Ceylon, Cocos-Keeling and Ceylon or Cocos-Keeling and Singapore. (b) A land line connecting the Straits Settlements and Burma. (c) An "all-British" cable to St. Lucia, to be commenced as soon as the state of cable enterprise in the West Indies permits.

4. While land-lines are cheaper to construct and maintain than sub-marine cables, it is in certain cases essential on strategic grounds that the former should not be permitted to drive the latter out of the field of competition.

5. We are aware of no power of controlling cable companies possessed by the States besides the following:—(a) The power to make stipulations when granting a subsidy or guarantee. (b) The power to employ public funds in competing or encouraging competition with private enterprise. (c) The power to grant or withhold general facilities. (d) The power to grant or withhold Government messages, and unroated telegrams. (e) The power to grant or withhold landing rights.

6. The possible advantage of giving guarantees of minimum revenue in place of subsidies should be considered.

7. No direct pecuniary return should be demanded for landing rights. The concessions should, however, be regarded as a check on any marked unreasonableness.

8. The normal policy of this country and its dependencies should be to encourage "free trade in cables." Exceptions should only be made to this rule on the ground of national, not of private, interests.

9. We recommend that the cables (Landing Rights) Committee should be strengthened, and that its functions should be enlarged so as to include the consideration of all questions relating to cables, that it should be entitled "The Cables Committee," and that it should report direct to the Treasury, the Board of Trade being relieved of its present responsibilities with regard to cables.

10. We are strongly opposed to the general purchase of cables by the State.

11. We are not prepared to say that any of the existing rates are excessive, with the exception of those to the Gold Coast and Nigeria. We recommend that an attempt should be made to reduce these in connection with the renewal of the Eastern Telegraph Companies' landing rights at Port Harcourt in 1903.

12. We would welcome the introduction of "deferred" rates in any case where (a) the time required for postal communication is considerable, but (b) the cables are not fully occupied with ordinary messages, but (c) are sufficiently occupied to admit of a real distinction between ordinary and deferred messages.

It will thus be seen that the Committee has pronounced emphatically against the general purchase of cables by the State; indeed it is urged that "the normal policy of this country and its dependencies should be to encourage 'free trade in cables,' exception to this rule only to be made on the ground of national, not of private, interests. In view of this pronouncement, it appears that, in the future as in the past, private enterprise will be left to further develop the cable systems of the Empire on commercial lines, but aided by the State under certain circumstances (such as for strategic reasons), preferably by means of guarantees of minimum revenue in place of subsidies, with sufficient State control necessary in the public interest and to correct any marked unreasonableness on the part of the companies. With regard to the question of an all-British cable the Committee point out the value of such a cable in time of war, on the assumption that cables will not be cut by belligerents, but it is thought that our strategic

arrangements must be made on the assumption that a considerable proportion of cables will be cut. The Committee "thus arrive at two principles leading to diametrically opposite conclusions. The more probable it is that cables will not be cut, the greater the value of an all-British cable. The more probable it is that they can be cut, the greater value of a cable touching on foreign territory." In view of these conflicting considerations the Committee have not found it easy to formulate a general rule, but the report goes on to say that "we think, however, that appreciable but not paramount value must be attached to All-British routes; and we regard it as desirable that every important Colony or Naval base should possess one cable to this country which touches only on British territory or on the territory of some friendly neutral. We think that after this there should be as many alternative cables as possible, but that these should be allowed to follow the normal routes suggested by commercial considerations."

A long list of cable lines that have been suggested to the Committee is enumerated in the report, and "there is something to be said for the construction of any or all of these lines," but, the report says, "we do not think that in the majority of cases the advantage is such as to justify the State either in constructing them itself or in aiding their construction from public funds." Exceptions are made, however, in favour of the three cables mentioned in paragraph (3) of the summarised recommendations of the Committee (quoted above), on purely strategic grounds.

As to rates the Committee "are not prepared to say that any of the existing rates are excessive, with the exception of those to the Gold Coast and Nigeria," and they recommend that an attempt should be made to reduce these in connection with the renewal of the Eastern Telegraph Companies' landing rights in Cornwall next year. The report also states that "we would welcome the introduction of deferred rates in certain specified cases."

I should be glad to receive any expression of opinion which your Chamber may think it desirable to make upon these conclusions, and whether you think any such opinion should be expressed in the form of a further resolution to be brought forward at the next Congress.—

Yours faithfully,

KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 23th August, 1902.

DEAR SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt, with thanks, of your communication dated 23th May last, on the subject of Imperial Cable Communications, and to state that the Committee of this Chamber consider, after the expression of opinion by the Inter-Departmental Committee to the effect that, with the exception of those to the Gold Coast and Nigeria, existing rates are not excessive, it is useless to continue the discussion for the present. In view, however, of the fact that the rates between India and Great Britain, and between the Straits Settlements and Great Britain had been reduced after the issue of the Inter-Departmental Committee's Report, the Committee of this Chamber will shortly once more press for a reduction of the Hongkong rates.

I am also requested to point out that according to the agreement for landing rights granted by the Hongkong Government to the Cable Companies the public are practically in the hands of these Companies in the matter of charges, and to express the hope that in view of the special reference (recommendation and conclusion 7) by the Inter-Departmental Committee to the question of landing rights your assistance may be relied upon to bring a termination of this state of affairs at the earliest possible opportunity.

From the information at the disposal of this Chamber, it appears that in 1894 the Government entered into an agreement with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, binding for 25 years, whereby the Government engaged not to grant or permit to be granted any concession or authority for laying any new submarine

cables connecting Hongkong with Singapore or Labuan, and, so far as would appear from the information at our disposal, the only *quid pro quo* for the virtual monopoly thus granted is that Government messages are to be sent over the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company's lines at half rates, the protection of the public in the matter of charges apparently being entirely ignored. To this undesirable state of affairs, it is thought you may well consider it necessary in the interests of commerce to call the attention of H.M. Government, and it is to be hoped that, even if the agreement and its binding effects on the public cannot be got rid of for the present, strict instructions may be issued that a renewal of it is not to be permitted without a radical change in the conditions thereof. Indeed, this Chamber is unable to see the necessity for debarring any other British Cable Companies from applying for and being granted, landing rights in Hongkong and its dependencies, on any reasonable conditions, and certainly there should be nothing in the nature of a monopoly such as appears to be conferred by the agreement in question.

In view of the Inter-Departmental Committee's recommendation and conclusions (8) advocating the necessity of encouraging "free trade in cables" this Committee feel it unnecessary to further labour this most vital point.

The other principal conditions of the aforementioned agreement appear to show that nothing therein is to prevent the Great Northern Telegraph Co. from repairing and replacing any submarine cable already connected with Hongkong, or to prejudice the rights of that Company. What these rights may be this Committee have no information, but it is to be noted in regard to this that the Company in question is not a British Company; also that the agreement is not to affect the right of H.M. Government to grant the Canadian or Australian Governments permission to lay a cable connecting Hongkong with Canada or Australia provided that such connection be completed within five years from date of the agreement. It will be observed that this period (to 1899) has already lapsed, and this Chamber has no information whether arrangements have been made for its renewal, which in view of the projected Pacific Cables it is most desirable should be brought about, and it is to be hoped that the Canadian and Australian Government may be moved to open this question with H.M. Government.

The only conditions of the agreement of any moment appear to be the reservation to H.M. Government of a right of purchase of the cable from Hongkong to Singapore and the forcing of the Cable Co.'s repurposing vessels from port and light dues at Hongkong, and other ports.

The commercial communities in China and Hongkong have long felt themselves seriously handicapped by the heavy tariff of charges enforced by the Cable Companies in consequence of the virtual monopoly enjoyed by these companies and several attempts have at times been made to gain some measure of relief. It may perhaps interest you to hear of the latest, and of its fate. As may be known to you, the rates from Hongkong and China to Russia are on a low preferential basis, not exceeding, viz., \$1.20 per word. This, with the rate of not exceeding \$0.45 per word from Russia to the United Kingdom, gives a through cost of not over \$1.65 per word, as against the through tariff rate of \$2.80 per word Hongkong to the United Kingdom charged by the Cable Companies. It was thought that, if any agency were established in Russia, through which messages to and from the United Kingdom might be passed at the above reduced charge, such pressure might thereby be brought to bear on the Cable Companies as would induce them to lower their tariff rate for through messages, and with this object in view a Mr. Nielsen, till recently an employee of superior rank in the service of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, made arrangements to proceed to Riga, and to open an office there for the receipt and forwarding of all messages from his constituents and for which purpose he received the support of a large number of firms here, and in China. (We may here mention that the above stated charge of \$1.65 per word would have given Mr. Nielsen, according to his calculations, sufficient profit to

recompense him for conducting the business on efficient lines.)

The result of this attempt is seen in the attached advertisement, which puts a successful boycott on the project, which accordingly had to be abandoned. It is to be noted that the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration is put forward in the advertisement as the author of the boycott, but the public can hardly seriously believe that the other Companies (which enjoy from H.M. Government the protection of a monopoly as far as Hongkong is concerned) are not also concerned in the manoeuvre, and, if this surmise be correct, it is hardly to their credit, and may be matter for further representations. It is certainly reversing the usual course when a through rate is much higher than two local rates combined.

It may also be of interest to mention that another non-British Co., the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration, also has an office in this Colony for the receipt and despatch of telegrams, but under what rights or agreements that Administration has been enabled to connect its Hongkong Office with the mainland, is not within the knowledge of this Committee.

This Committee, in placing their views, and the aforementioned statements before you, trust that they may have the benefit of the strongest representations of your Committee with a view to bringing about some remedy of the position of affairs disclosed.—Yours faithfully,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY,

London Chamber of Commerce.

THE NAVY LEAGUE (HONGKONG BRANCH).

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League was held on Thursday afternoon in the City Hall. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., presided, and the members of the Committee who were present were Messrs. B. Layton, R. C. Wilcox, Gershom Stewart, M. W. Slade, D. R. Law, W. A. Cruickshank, and Captain G. C. Anderson (Hon. Secretary). The attendance of members was not large.

The Hon. SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting and the minutes of the last annual meeting of the Branch.

The CHAIRMAN in moving the adoption of the report, which was held as read, having been circulated, said it showed that the Hongkong Branch had done active and energetic work since they last met. The meeting this year had been fixed rather earlier, as they hoped to be able by that means to get a fairly large attendance. But it would seem that in Hongkong nothing less exciting than a new dock scheme or the malaria mosquito was able to bring together a large audience. From the report it would be seen that the committee had offered a prize of £50 to the Commander-in-Chief for the encouragement of gunnery in the ships on this station. That prize was offered absolutely unconditionally and without restrictions whatever, and it had been a source of some regret to the committee that the authorities had not seen their way to accept the prize. After a delay of some months in answering their letter, which he presumed was due to the fact that the Admiral desired to communicate with the home authorities, they were informed that the offer was declined with thanks. It seemed regrettable that the authorities could not have seen their way to accept the offer, because there was no doubt that in the case of a naval struggle accurate marksmanship would count for a very great deal. In Great Britain recently a great deal of enthusiasm had been witnessed on behalf of so-called rifle clubs, and the nation had undoubtedly realised that on land it was of the utmost importance that men should not merely be provided with guns but should be able to use them with precision and good effect. (Hear, hear.) Well, if that rule held good on land how much more was it necessary that every encouragement possible should be given to gunnery practice and accurate aiming on board ship, where the difference between a hit and a miss might possibly have very great

bearing upon the decision of a big action. The committee had also during the past year, as they had done for many years past, been pegging away upon the subject of piracy in the West River. That was a very important question. It not merely had a bearing upon the commerce of this port; it also had to be looked at from a political and therefore a naval point of view. Disturbances in the neighbouring provinces ought so far as possible to be kept within due limits. No doubt there was some risk that if disturbances of this kind were allowed to go unchecked certain Powers might be tempted—we ourselves might be tempted—to interfere in the internal affairs of China, and it was obviously desirable that before things got to that stage rigorous steps should be taken to keep the piracies within due limit. He was glad to see that the Government of Hongkong had recently been interesting themselves in this matter, and they must hope that effective action would be taken in future and that those piracies, which had occurred so near our own waters in the past, would not recur. With reference to Weihaiwei, he thought since they last met various papers had been laid on the table of the House of Commons by Lord Cranborne, and it was quite obvious that all idea of making Weihaiwei into an armed base had been abandoned. He did not know that that was altogether an undesirable decision if it meant that the authorities were going to do their very utmost to place Hongkong in an absolutely safe position—(hear, hear)—as regards forts and putting powerful modern breech-loading guns into these forts. (Applause.) He thought it must be recognised as a fundamental principle of naval strategy that it was the business of a fleet, in war to keep at sea and pursue or watch the enemy's fleets; and it appeared to him absolutely necessary that Hongkong should be put into such a position as to be capable of defending itself for some weeks at all events during the absence of the fleet. (Applause.) He wished to see the forts at Devil's Peak proceeded with very shortly, but so far as he had been able to see for himself lately, it would seem that matters there had come to a standstill. He hoped they would very shortly have the satisfaction of seeing guns mounted there, as there was no doubt it was a very important position for the defence of the Colony. They would very soon have amongst them Mr. H. E. Wyatt, who was coming out as an envoy from the Navy League in London. Mr. Wyatt was doing this work purely out of patriotism, receiving no remuneration whatever for his efforts, and they had to thank Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., agents for the Eastern and Australian line, and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, agents for the China Navigation Co., for having promised to give a free passage to Mr. Wyatt from Japan to Australia. (Applause.) There was one point in connection with Mr. Wyatt's visit to which he wished to draw attention, and that was the fact that at the Board of Trade meeting he addressed at Montreal one and all the members present unanimously agreed to join the Navy League. Since then Mr. Wyatt had been the means of establishing three new branches of the League in Canada. (Applause.) His earnest hope was that they would be able to secure the adhesion here of more members and associates in that Branch of the Navy League. At the present moment there were some 257 members and 38 associates. He did not think that was altogether satisfactory having regard to the fact that there was an adult British male population in the Colony of over 1,200 people. They ought, seeing the importance of strengthening the hands of the Government, to do all in their power to secure more members and associates out here. In that connection he might mention that the head office of the Navy League had more than once during the past year written out urging them to get new recruits for the League, and, as a quarter of the subscriptions was sent home, the League desired more funds for carrying out its purposes and objects. Therefore it was important that they should secure the adhesion of more members and associates. He knew it was said by some, 'What is the use of the Navy League? Are there not people who are paid to look after these things? Why should we trouble ourselves about these

matters?' Well, he thought that by using a simple local illustration he would be able to show that that was a fallacy. He thought he would be able to show that simply because people were paid to look after things, it did not in the least follow that the public would get that. Perhaps he need hardly say that he referred at the present moment to the water question. (Applause.) We had had in this Colony for year and years past a being known as the Water Authority—(laughter)—whose business it was to provide us with an efficient and sufficient supply of water. Those people who took up the position that because a thing was paid for to be looked after therefore the public got it, would, he supposed, argue that because the Water Authority was paid to get the Colony a sufficient supply of water therefore we had plenty of water. The absurdity of adopting such a line of argument was obvious. (Applause.) This water question also furnished a parallel to the action of the Navy League, because as had been seen from the correspondence in the Press during the past few months people who considered they had not got a sufficient water supply agitated and wrote to the Press and the Water Authority demanding that they should receive an adequate supply of water. The Navy League was in exactly the same position. The League was convinced—and they were supported upon that point by such authorities as Lord Charles Beresford, Admiral Rawson, Admiral Hood and Admiral Fremantle—that the supply of battleships and cruisers was insufficient, and was endeavouring, through the Press and by questions in the House of Commons, to secure that we should obtain a sufficient naval strength to enable us to maintain that peace throughout the world so very important to us as a trading Power. (Hear, hear.) The Navy League was by no means a jingo body. Their whole aim and object were that Great Britain should maintain such a standard of strength as to enable her to hold her position and to carry on her commerce in security throughout the world. It would be easy to point out much good work done by the Navy League, but, for the sake of brevity, mention would be made of only one small but very important example in which it seemed that the Navy League had done most excellent work. In the Navy some two years or so ago there were on the list kept by the Admiralty at home some 23 ships of an obsolete type, armed with muzzle-loading guns, and the Navy League said, and perfectly rightly, that these ships were little better than death-traps. For over two years past the League had worked continuously at that question, and only a month or two ago was able to announce that every one of these dangerous and inefficient ships had been taken off the list. (Applause.) That was a very important result indeed to have achieved, and there could be no doubt, judging by the slowness with which Governments move in the ordinary way, that that action of the Navy League, ably seconded as it was by the Press, had been to a great extent instrumental in removing these obsolete ships from the Admiralty list. (Applause.) In Hongkong lately we had been considering and pondering over the so-called building collapses, and, as had been pointed out, it was a matter for serious enquiry that some 30 or 40 people had lost their lives through the collapse of buildings. But what a number of lives would have been at stake if those 3 ships had remained on the Government list; it would not have been a question of 40 or 50 lives at stake, but one hundred times that amount, or more. In such matters as these it was necessary that the Government should be kept up to the mark, for it did not in the least follow that because certain people were paid for doing certain work that that work would be performed efficiently. These views had the support of no less an authority than our late Premier, Lord Salisbury, than whom there was no other statesman of recent times more guarded and cautious in the use of his words. When the Conservative Administration was being attacked upon the inefficiency of the preparations in connection with the South African War, Lord Salisbury said that the Treasury exercised a very restraining effect upon the Government, and added the very important remark that the defence of the Empire was part of the business of the people. Such was the position that the Navy League had been maintaining all along. Certainly the Go-

vernment desired to do its best in the matter, but the Navy League recognised that in order to maintain our naval position in the world large sums of money would have to be expended, and when people realised that the national safety in one way depended on the Navy, they would then see that the Government provided efficient and sufficient ships, and would willingly bear the taxation which was imposed upon them to provide efficient and sufficient ships. The whole task of the Navy League had been to educate the people so that they might be induced to bring pressure to bear upon the Government. Lord Salisbury had said, and justly, that the national defence was the business of the people, and the object of the Navy League was to make the people realise that it was absolutely important for the welfare of the British Empire that we should possess a predominantly strong Navy. (Applause.) Concluding, Mr. Pollock said it was very desirable that those of the British community in the Colony not associated with the Navy League should at once become members or associates of it. There was absolutely no entrance fee, and for members the subscription was only \$5 a year, and for associates \$2. Nobody therefore could say it was an expensive matter to join the Navy League, and that they could not afford to do it. In moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, the speaker said that members and associates would very much facilitate the work of the Hon. Treasurer if they would kindly send in their subscriptions, without putting him to the trouble of sending out specially to collect subscriptions. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. R. Lowe seconded, and the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN afterwards moved that a sum of \$100 be voted from the funds, in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Arden Street which he explained did good and useful work and was in need of funds.

This was seconded and agreed to.

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART proposed the election of Mr. Pollock as Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Pollock for years past had been untiring in his efforts for the furtherance of the Navy League, and had thrown his whole heart into the work. (Applause.)

The motion having been duly seconded, it was carried unanimously.

Mr. POLLOCK thanked the members for the honour they had done him.

The Committee was afterwards re-elected, and the proceedings ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES—SPEECH BY SIR WILLIAM GOODMAN.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with the Diocesan Boys' School, Bonham Road, took place on Thursday in the School. His Honour Sir William M. Goodman presided, and was supported by Mr. Geo. Piercy, jun., headmaster, and Rev. F. T. Johnson. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. The proceedings were opened by the choir singing "Hearts of Oak."

Mr. PIERCY then read the annual report, prefacing his remarks by saying that as senior member of the Committee of Management and one who took a great interest in the work of the School, they were highly gratified to see Sir William Goodman in the chair, and offered him their hearty congratulations on the knighthood which had been conferred upon him by His Majesty the King. (Applause.) The report was in the following terms:—

We are thankful to say that the past year has been characterised by good health, steady progress and marked success.

In July 15 pupils sat for the Oxford University Local Examinations of whom 12 passed, or 80 per cent.—namely 2 in the Senior, 5 in the Junior, and 5 in the Preliminary. The percentage for the Colony was 53, and for Ireland 69. L. le Breton was placed in Honours. The Local Secretary's report states that during the 15 years these examinations have been held in Hongkong, only on four occasions have candidates attained Honours.

Three were from this School; the fourth was a young lady, most of whose education was received in England. The School was taught on 245 days, and it is worthy of remark that 7 boys were present every day, and 7 others missed only one day. The average attendance has risen from 145 to 163, and is the highest yet attained. The number of boys on our books was 261, of whom 39, or 15 per cent., were Europeans; some of the latter went to England, but only 4 left us for the recently opened Kowloon School, 3 of whom lived at Kowloon and 1 at Shaukiwan.

The Inspector of Schools was absent on leave, and on his return late in the year the Government decided that there need be no Grant-in-Aid Examinations in December, and, consequently, this report does not contain the usual statistics. The School, however, was examined as usual by myself at Midsummer, and the prizes are awarded according to the marks obtained by the boys at that examination and throughout the year. The School was examined in religious knowledge by Rev. J. H. France, whose report is appended. There is no difficulty in placing our boys in situations, as we have numerous applications; in fact, the demand is often greater than the supply.

In January, Mr. H. Jackson was engaged to assist with the younger boys, and has done good work, especially in explaining the English lessons in Chinese. From March to August, Mrs. Arnold was absent on a well-earned furlough, and has resumed her work with renewed vigour. On August 13th, Mr. C. R. S. Cooper arrived from a London Board School. He is a trained and certificated teacher, and has begun his duties with great heartiness. Mr. Sykes and Mr. Brawn have again rendered invaluable service, particularly during the first half of the year, when the staff was, from various circumstances, seriously incomplete. The latter has taken charge of the Cricket Club, and infused his own enthusiasm into the boys, and with the cordial assistance of the other masters has improved all the games and enabled us to win every cricket match so far.

At the close of the bathing season, aquatic sports were held at Stonecutter's Island by kind permission of the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.; the prizes were distributed at a school concert presided over by Capt. Stevensen, R.A. At the Hongkong Regatta in December, a crew trained by Mr. R. C. Witchell, of the P.W.D., competed in the school-boys' race, and followed close on the winning boat, thus making a very exciting race.

On three occasions, lantern entertainments were arranged for the boys and their friends by Miss Pitts, Mr. W. J. Austey, R.N., and Revs. J. H. France and T. Wright, and were greatly appreciated. On Boxing Day the boys and girls of the two Diocesan Schools had a picnic by launch (kindly lent by E. Osborne, Esq.) to Capatimua. Sports were arranged and prizes given by the masters, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our thanks are due to Lady Gascoigne for the gift of a large Union Jack for the school-room, and to the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League for books and pamphlets.

The prizes have been again kindly provided by His Honour Sir. W. M. Goodman, K.C., Hon. Wei Yuk, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Siebs, Messrs. E. B. L. Bowley, Chau Long-hin, Choy Po-sien, D. Elphinstone, Fung Wa Chun, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, H. Humphreys, A. Mackie, A. J. Mackie, D. Nowrojee, Sin Tak-fan, J. Witchell. Any balance from the Prize Fund goes towards supplying books for the School library.

The holidays are from January 16th to February 16th.

The following is the report of the Examiner in Scripture knowledge:—

On the 7th of January, I examined the Diocesan Boys' School in religious knowledge. One hundred and twenty-seven boys, divided into seven forms, were present. In the first and second forms the examination was conducted orally; in the remaining forms, by means of written papers. The answering in the two lower forms was ready, full and accurate, and showed that the boys had been very carefully taught. In the five upper forms, the papers showed an amount of merit which would have been remarkable in a school

where English was the mother-tongue of the scholars, as it is not in this School. The fourth form is the lowest in the scale of attainment, but it is low only by comparison with the general highest standard of the School. The meanings of special words in the Catechism was the object in which the lowest marks were obtained, but in many cases in the other subjects nearly 10 per cent. of the marks obtainable had been gained.

The examination reflects the greatest credit on the industry of the boys, and the ability and patience of the masters and the teaching staff.

J. H. FRANCE, M.A.

The CHAIRMAN then presented the Oxford local certificates and prizes to the successful students. At the conclusion of this ceremony and after the choir had sung "The Old Folks at Home," the Chairman addressed the gathering. For several years past it had been his privilege, he said, to be a member of the committee. He considered the School to be a very excellent one. It supplied a great need in the Colony; it supplied a sound education based upon Christian principles, and he must say, coming there year after year as he had done for the last few years, that he thought Mr. Piercy, the headmaster, and his staff had every right to feel very proud of the educational work they were doing in the Colony of Hongkong. (Applause.)

When therefore he was asked to go there that day and distribute the prizes he had much pleasure in accepting the invitation. As to the report which they had just heard read, he was of opinion that it was a most satisfactory report. (Hear, hear.) When you could sum up what had been done in that school during the last year in the first two lines was done in that report it was a very satisfactory position to be in. The words he referred to were these: "We are thankful to say that the past year has been characterised by good health, steady progress and marked success." Good health was a wonderfully pleasant thing to have in a school, and it reflected credit upon the masters who took care of the boys. Mr. Piercy looked after them like a mother. (Loud applause.) You could not have good health in a climate like this unless you had plenty of exercise, and therefore he was very pleased to see that they had been working hard at cricket and that Mr. Brawn had given them such an impetus that way by coaching and helping them, and that so great had been the success of the Club that they had won every match so far. That was a very encouraging thing, and in order to encourage them still more he would be very happy to give them a new ball at the start of next season. (Applause.)

He saw also that they had begun rowing, which was a very excellent exercise. At the Regatta they followed very close upon the winning boat. Of course he would rather have seen them first but it was a grand thing to have got second. He was present at the Regatta and watched the whole proceedings and he thought the Diocesan School boys rowed uncommonly well. If they had a little more training and put their hearts into it they would give their opponents a very hard race for it if they did not win; and he hoped they would win. As to the work of the School, he was pleased to hear it stated that Mr. Jackson had been engaged to help with the younger boys and had been doing good work, especially in explaining the English lessons in Chinese. It had always appeared to him a wonderful thing in Hongkong to carry on the work with Chinese boys and English boys sitting side by side; and the first work of the Chinese boys must be to get some knowledge of the English language before they understood the lessons. In these circumstances, the first thing they should do was to learn as much English as possible. Mr. Jackson had been told off to repeat in Chinese to the boys the lessons and explain fully to them what the lesson meant, because, although they understood part of it, there must be some part of it they not understand. He should like to see that plan carried out very fully so that Chinese boys would have the same chance as English boys in acquiring knowledge; he would advise Chinese boys to study English well; not only would they find it a commercial advantage—for a boy who knew the English language was almost sure of getting a good situation—but they would find it a great advantage to read the fine English literature which would thereby be thrown open to them. Another thing he was very pleased to

see—and it reflected very great credit upon the teaching staff—was that 80 per cent., 12 out of 15, of the boys who went up for the Oxford local examinations had passed. This was very creditable. He was sorry that Mr. Le Breton was not present. He would have liked to shake hands with him for the distinction he had gained in passing the Oxford examination with Honours. Mr. Le Breton was the fourth Hongkong boy in 15 years who had passed in that class. Of the four obtained three had been got by scholars of that school. That showed that there must be some very excellent teaching done there. (Applause.) Then he was very glad to see from Mr. France's report that the religious knowledge was so satisfactory. In 1900 and 1901 the chairman of the meeting was the Lord Bishop of Victoria and he recollected him saying to the boys what a great advantage it was to have religious education and not only purely and simply secular. Next year, 1902, a distinguished General—Sir William Gascoigne—gave away the prizes, and he told them that he had been a soldier nearly all his life and that the two great factors in a soldier's character that made up success were discipline and love of duty; and he also said that duty and religion went hand in hand. There they had the opinion of a distinguished General. He was afraid he could only give them the opinion of the Chief Justice of the Colony; and he could only say that he endorsed every word that fell from the Bishop and the General. You may take it that as you get older you must have something to base your life upon and you must have a religion if you want to do well and conduct your life properly. He would not be surprised if the boy who had just won the history prize did not know that the Ten Commandments were at one time part of the laws of England. It was in Green's *History* that King Alfred, just over a thousand years ago, prefixed to his Code the Decalogue and certain other portions of the Law of Moses; and these were part of the law of the land. He could only say that if everybody kept the Ten Commandments there would not be much need of any criminal sessions in the Supreme Court. There would not be any crime. One of the greatest writers on criminal law had said that if that portion of the Church Catechism which dealt with your "duty to your neighbour"—and that was simply an enlargement of the Ten Commandments—were to be carried out and made the basis of the criminal law we would have no crime at all and no false witnesses and at least half the present work of the Supreme Court would not require to be done at all. With regard to the scholars he said they might be divided into three classes—1st, those who had worked hard to gain a prize and had succeeded; 2nd, those who had worked hard to gain a prize and had failed; 3rd, those who had not taken the trouble to work hard, who had not even tried to gain a prize and had no desire to do any work they could comfortably avoid doing. As to the 1st class, he was glad to see many of them there and he congratulated them on their success. As to the 2nd class they had his warm sympathy, but they must remember if all gained prizes, prizes would not be so much worth having. They must not be discouraged. If they did get a prize now they might next time, and certainly their hard work had not been thrown away. They knew far more than if they had not worked. As for the 3rd class he did not see any boy especially anxious to claim membership—(laughter)—and he could only say that success in life could not be gained without work. A schoolboy thought how grand it would be to leave school and be a young man, but he would find he was only exchanging a small school for a much bigger one, and a much harder one, viz., the world. The world makes no allowances and gives no prizes for inferior work. So he advised idlers at school to turn over a new leaf while they had time. Since he was there last the King had given him a prize, the Knighthood kindly referred to by the headmaster. When he was at school and they got a hamper from home they used to like to share the good things with the other boys. All he could do to share his present with them was to ask that they might have one extra day's holiday—(applause)—and he understood they had no objection and, what was more important still, the headmaster and authorities

had been kind enough to grant his request that their return to school might be fixed for the 17th instead of the 16th February as originally arranged. So all that remained for him was to wish them all a pleasant holiday. (Loud applause.)

The choir again gave a song, "A Health unto His Majesty," which, like their previous efforts, was very well done.

Rev. F. T. JOHNSON moved a vote of thanks to Sir William Goodman for so willingly consenting to come there that day and distribute the prizes. They all knew he was a very busy man and on that account felt all the more grateful to him for sparing the time to attend that function. They very much preferred that he should visit them there rather than they should be compelled to visit him at the Supreme Court. (Applause.) He could assure them that Sir William Goodman distributing prizes was a very different Sir William Goodman as representing the majesty of the law in the Supreme Court. He had had no experience of him, however, in the latter capacity. (Laughter.) With regard to the extra day they thanked him most heartily for his great kindness in thinking of sharing the honour on which they all congratulated him. (Applause.) In conclusion Mr. Johnson asked the visitors to remain after the meeting was over and inspect the school buildings, paying a compliment to the care and skill with which the school was conducted by Mr. Piercy and his staff, Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Piercy.

A verse of the National Anthem brought the formal proceedings to a close.

Then the boys gave three cheers for Sir William and Lady Goodman, three cheers for the ladies, and three more for the headmaster, the last being led off by Sir William.

The school will be reopened on the 17th of February.

PRIZE LIST.

Oxford Local Examination Certificates:—Senior: H. Jackson and H. H. Strangman; Junior: W. A. Blumenberg, E. C. Hagen, P. E. Hastings, A. R. Mackenzie, and A. Melbye; Preliminary: L. le Breton (3rd Class Honours), E. L. A. Arnold, C. R. Blumenberg, A. E. Moyhing, and U Wai-tak.

Class prizes:—Standard VII: H. H. Strangman and P. E. Hastings; Standard VI: U Wai-tak and L. le Breton; Standard V: B. Wong and Lam Sang; Standard IV: Wong Shiu-cheung and Chan Yan-hang; Standard III: Cheung Kwan and R. J. Hastings; Standard II: Geo. Wong and Sun Siu; Standard I: Lam Yan-yuen and H. Anderson.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Scripture:—Standard VII: A. Melbye; Standard VI: Cheung Chi; Standard V: E. Law; Standard IV: J. Crolus; Standard III: Lam Tsai; Standard II: Geo. Wong; Standard I: H. A. Parker and She U-pan.

Standard VII: Mathematics, H. H. Strangman; Shakespeare, A. Melbye; Drawing, A. R. Mackenzie; Essay and Shorthand, E. C. Hagen. Standard VI: Mathematics and Physiography, U Wai-tak. Standard V: Mathematics, B. Wong; Physical Geography and Map Drawing, E. Law. Standard IV: Algebra, Wong Hong-shing; Physical Geography, Wong Shiu-cheung; Map Drawing, Fong Lin. Standard III: Music, J. C. Palmer; Good Conduct, W. Thom.

The following Notification was issued by H.B.M. Consul at Fookhow on the 29th ult.:—"I have been requested by the Fohkien Mining Board to inform British subjects that applications for mining concessions must be made in accordance with the following regulation: 'Foreign merchants wishing to apply for mining concessions must in the first instance prepare a detailed statement of their proposed operations and declare their willingness to abide by the regulations established by China. They will be required to specify how the necessary capital is to be raised and how much it is proposed to raise. They must indicate in what district the mining area is situated, on what hill and on what part of the hill, giving the measurements of the ground and furnishing a plan. Their applications must be made to the Fohkien Mining Board through their Consul.'

LAUNCH OF THE "KINSHAN."

A large and representative company assembled at the Kowloon Docks on the 12th inst. to witness the launching of the river steamer *Kinshan*. The ceremony was performed by Mrs. Siebs, wife of Mr. N. A. Siebs, and passed off most successfully, the steamer gliding easily down the slips and entering the water with scarcely a splash. As she lay on the slips, the *Kinshan*, gaily bedecked with flags running fore and aft, prettily amongst them that of the Dock Company, gave the spectator an accurate idea of her great size, and helped him to realise not only the extent of the undertaking involved in her building, but the resources of the Company which had so successfully discharged the task of giving shape to the largest steamer yet built in Hongkong. For its work the Dock Company is to be heartily congratulated.

On the stand from which the launching ceremony was performed had been erected a ship's telegraph, and by simply pulling the handle of this Mrs. Siebs released the restraining dog-shores and allowed the *Kinshan* to enter the element for which she is intended. Owing to the grease at one part of the slipway having hardened, the steamer did not immediately respond to the freeing of the shores but when the slight defect had been removed she slowly began to move, gathering momentum as the slips were cleared and gracefully taking the water amidst cheers and deafening explosions of Chinese bombs and crackers.

In the reading-room and library at the Docks the company afterwards toasted success to the *Kinshan*. Mr. D. E. Brown, chairman of the Dock Company, presided, and made the opening remarks. He thanked the ladies and gentlemen present for having attended the launching in the face of the unfavourable weather prevailing, and commented on the successful and graceful manner in which the ceremony had been performed. Continuing, he said that the task of building and engineering such a ship entirely in Hongkong was the largest piece of work ever undertaken by the Dock Company, and he thought he was safe in congratulating the Dock Company in particular and the Colony in general on having successfully launched the biggest steamer ever built in China, for she was some seventeen feet longer—her other dimensions he could not recall—than the *Yuen Wo*, built in Shanghai in 1883. (Applause.) If the chief attributes, or one of the chief attributes, of success in the christening of a new ship lay in having a kind and warm heart to perform the service, the *Kinshan* was likely to attain that success, and, Mr. Brown said, he had much pleasure in asking Mrs. Siebs to accept a bracelet, with the compliments and good wishes of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, as a memento of the occasion. In proposing a long life of success to the *Kinshan*, Mr. Brown hoped that she would so meet with the approval of the owners that before long they would favour the Dock Company with another order. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm and amid cheers.

Mr. W. B. DIXON, chief manager of the Docks, commented on the responsibility of the undertaking in building a ship of the dimensions of the *Kinshan*, and said that had the Dock Company not done their utmost to execute the order once it had been received the launching would not have taken place that day. In bringing out materials from home, 13 plates had been lost in the Red Sea, and as a consequence the boilers of the steamer were not so far advanced as the engines. He echoed Mr. Brown's hope that the Company would soon receive an order for another ship, and said the owners might very well turn their attention to something more modern than the *Hankow*. (Laughter.) Mr. Dixon said he was glad to see present Mr. Siebs, the chairman of the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, and coupled his name with the toast of the owners, the Steamboat Company and the China Navigation Company, who were allied in the matter.

The toast having been responded to, Mr. Siebs, on behalf of his wife as well as of himself, expressed his appreciation of the compliments paid them, and hoped the

Kinshan would have a long and successful career and earn good dividends. He then proposed continued prosperity to the Dock Company, coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Dixon and the staff of the Docks whom he congratulated on the turning out of such a fine ship.

The toast was honoured, and when it had been acknowledged by Mr. Dixon, the Hon. R. Shewan proposed the health of the manager of the Kowloon establishment Mr. J. Wilson, and the Dock Company.

In his reply, Mr. Wilson mentioned in connection with valuable services rendered the name of Mr. Jack and the other foremen in the Docks, without whom help the ship could not have been got ready in time. He also trusted that another order would be laid, and with the *Kinshan* they would prove that ships could be built here as well as anywhere. (Applause.)

We have already published particulars of the *Kinshan*, but it will not be amiss on this occasion to re-eat them. She is a steel twin-screw steamer, built for the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. Ltd., and the China Navigation Co., has a length between perpendiculars of 291 ft.; breadth moulded at main deck, 54 ft.; breadth moulded at water-line, 43 ft.; depth moulded to main deck, 13 ft.; and depth of hold to top of ballast tank 10 ft. 3 in. The vessel is fitted with two sets of triple expansion engines capable of giving her a speed of 14 knots; she has a double bottom with water-bilge on the cellular principle, and her cylinders, six in number, are h.p. 20 inches diameter; intermediate, 31 in.; and l.p., 50 ins. The piston has a stroke of 27 ins. Her four single-ended cylindrical tubular boilers have inside diameter of 13 ft. 4 in., by 10 ft.; and each has three corrugated furnaces. The boilers are designed for a working pressure of 180 lbs. per square inch. The *Kinshan* is handsomely appointed and fitted throughout with electric light. She has been entirely built by the Dock Company, the material being imported from home, and has been surveyed by the Board of Trade to pass the foreign-going passenger certificate requirements.

EVACUATION OF SHANGHAI COMPLETED.

The evacuation of Shanghai by the international garrisons was completed on Saturday, 3rd inst., by the departure of the remainder of the German troops. Soon after seven o'clock in the morning Count von Schlippenbach, the officers and men, left their camp in Bubbling Well Road, and were joined at the Country Club by Captain Boisragon, Colonel Mackenzie, Major Brodie Clarke, and Captain Wedemeyer. At the Loongfei Bridge they were met by the Town Band, which played them down the Maloo, up the Bund, and over the Yangkingpang bridge to the Norddeutscher Lloyd jetty, passing a French guard of honour on the way. On the bund of the French Concession the men were formed up and addressed by the German Consul (Dr. Knappe), who complimented them on their general conduct during their stay in China, and wished them a safe voyage and happy return home.

Among the crowd of foreigners who attended to witness the departure of the troops were the Consuls of the various powers represented in Shanghai, Colonel Dessino (Russian Military Agent), Captain Rose, Mr. R. E. Bredon, and numerous officers of the S. V. C.

During the wait at the jetty, cordial farewells and good wishes were given and exchanged, and the Town Band played "Auld Lang Syne" and other well-known airs suitable for such an event. The splendid band of the German cruiser *Hansa* also took part in the send-off. About 20 officers and 500 men embarked at the jetty on the tender, and were taken down the river to the steamship *König Albert*, at Woosung, leaving for Europe a few hours later in the day.

After the tender had left, a number of troops escorted by the bands, marched down to the China Merchants' Lower Wharf, and embarked on the vessel *Gouverneur Jacschke*, for Tsingtao. Count von Schlippenbach and several officers also left for the north. An officer and two or three men have been left behind to look after the property of the garrison not taken away.

DISTURBANCES IN WEST CHEKIANG.

Further news relating to the rising of the Tichu Chiao society of Yenchowfu, W. at Chékiang, against the R. C. converts, is to hand. It appears that after the repulse given to the secret society men at Fenshui, near Hangchow, by a company of foreign modeled troops, the regulars were themselves so badly cut up by the mob that they had to retire to an adjoining city and wait for reinforcements which had been sent from Hangchow. In the meanwhile, H.E. Hsu Chén-ka, former Provincial Judge, and now Chief of the Military Secretariat, as well as Chief Commissioner of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs for Chékiang province, had been energetically mobilising all available troops, that is to say, troops that are armed with modern arms of precision, within call of Hangchow city, and having succeeded in collecting near 5,000 men, has sent them on to Yenchow by various routes so as to encircle the insurgents and circumscribe their operations, and having driven them into a corner, "gather up the rascals into a net." Like all such quasi-religious propaganda of ignorant people, the rising which began against the R. C. converts soon afterwards developed into a general, plundering expedition where, regardless of sect, all who had money and possessions were equally deemed fish for the net. The inhabitants of Yenchowfu prefecture and districts of adjoining prefectures have been indiscriminately pillaged; their houses as well as the churches, chapels, and houses of converts being ruthlessly burnt. Eye-witnesses report that at the beginning of the insurrection the flames of burning buildings could be seen for miles around, while the roads leading to Hangchow and cities away from the scenes of disturbance were dotted with thousands of men, women, and children of the better classes fleeing for refuge. Fortunately, the Chékiang Military Secretariat is directed by the capable and energetic hands of H.E. Hsu Chén-kan, and he was able to mobilise in a short time a respectable force to prevent the further spread of the insurrection, although the insurgents must be quite 20,000 adults, variously armed. When one comes to consider the difficulties the Chief of the Military Secretariat had to contend with in such a crisis when the Acting Governor of the province is a Manchu and the other high authorities lagard and apathetic (probably owing to orders from sympathisers in the North) the action of the first-named official is to be highly commended. At any rate, with the mobilisation and sending of a proper force of well-armed troops to Yenchowfu we may expect to hear soon of H.E. Hsu Chén-kan's success in suppressing an insurrection which at one time seemed quite serious. Finally, letters from Hangchow and other Chékiang cities report that anti-religious placards have been posted freely about calling on the masses to rise and assist the insurgents, but so long as the authorities stand firm like H.E. Hsu there need be no fear expected from this source.—N.C. Daily News.

THE SITUATION IN KANSU.

Writing under date 13th December from Kuitze-kuan, Honan, Mr. C. J. Anderson, of the China Overland Mission, sends further particulars in regard to the situation in Kansu. He quotes a letter to hand from the province in question as follows: "Affairs in Kansu are very serious. Tung Fu-hsiang is 90 li north of Kansu in a walled town. A man, who was sent to enquire about the rumours, spent two days in Tung's stronghold; he reports the valley is full of troops, tents, etc., and that there were 20 ying of troops around him. The names of many men, now at their homes, are enrolled, so that they may flock to Tung's standard at his call. The soldiers want to fight, and their general talk is, 'In Shensi and Kansu there is not to be left one foreign devil.' All travellers are searched and letters for missionaries have been opened. A parcel of letters has just arrived through the yamen and every one was torn open, nor could any answer be obtained to enquiries. A reliable source states that 'there will be trouble before long.' It is said that Tung has a great store of ammunition supplies,

and that the Taotai at Kansu has received orders from Court to disband his troops. Four thousand were disbanded in one day, and everyone joined Tung. It is also said that Tung Fu-hsiang, Prince Tuan, Pinghang Taotai, and Yung Lu at Peking are working together.

The fact is that Tung has bought up an immense store of grain and fodder, so that the price has gone up to nearly double; grain by camel is nearly 200 miles distant. Another fact is that the missionaries are forbidden by the officials to go toward the neighbourhood of Kansu, or to go out into the streets in the evening. This is something new in the quiet province of Kansu. Trouble seems to be not far off.—N.C. Daily News.

CLOSING THE SIAM MINTS.

It was never anticipated by those who had studied the question that the mere fact of the closing of the Mint by the Government and the issue of an advertisement that the Government were prepared to pay 17 ticals for one pound sterling would have the effect of at once fixing the value of the tical at 17 to the pound. It was thought that the action of the Government in thus divorcing the tical from the dollar would probably effectually prevent the tical from following the dollar in its downward course, but that its value would, while remaining fairly stationary at first, when trade increased and money became tight in Bangkok, gradually rise.

But an entirely unexpected feature presented itself. The Banks, under the impression that the laws of Siam, like those of the Medes and Persians, were unchangeable, and oblivious of the fact that the Decree which made the tical interchangeable with the dollar at the rate of 5 ticals for 3 dollars and with the rupee at 5 ticals for 7 rupees (how strange it sounds now!) might at any moment be repealed by the Power which made it, sent, in the course of their exchange business, a large amount of their Bangkok funds out of Siam, to Singapore and elsewhere, without complete cover by the sale of bills or by the importation of dollars.

That such action must under the circumstances be considered as partially speculative cannot be questioned, but there the fact was, and when the Government closed the Mints the Banks looked with dismay upon the prospect before them of having to bring back to Siam a vast quantity of gold, in order to purchase enough ticals to liquidate the balance of their outstanding tical liabilities in Siam, with a tical the value of which was considerably greater than the silver that it contained.

With this knowledge in their possession and with the further knowledge that ticals would only be purchased from the Government in future at the rate of 17 ticals to the pound sterling, it became impossible for the Banks to sell their remaining ticals at anything less than 17 to the pound. This would have meant a sudden jump in the value of the tical from about 11½ to 17, which would not only have resulted in a serious dislocation in trade, but would also have compelled the Banks to endeavour to sell their sterling drafts at a rate of exchange out of all proportion to the rate at which they were purchasing bills locally. In order to meet this entirely unlooked for situation, to prevent any violent fluctuation in exchange, and also to save the Banks from the inconsequences of their action—legitimate banking business as it was—in having remitted from Siam so much of their tical assets, the Government issued a Notification to the effect that they would for the time being sell ticals at the rate of 20 to the pound sterling. This was a rate only slightly higher than the value of the tical at the time that the Mints were closed, and should the dollar rise, it seems quite possible that the Government rate for selling ticals may shortly have to be raised to keep it above the value of the silver that the minted coin contains.

That the Government is perfectly able to increase thus the value of the tical to any reasonable value that they may choose to give to it is disputed by none, and it seems certain that, so far as human knowledge can predict, Siam is free for ever from the harassing vagaries of a fluctuating exchange and from the losses to the country incidental to a depreciating tical. Such alteration in the

value of the tical as the future may have in store will in all probability be on the side of increasing its value. The whole measure was indubitably well within the legal competence of the Government to introduce, and the talk about claims against the Government for compensation were so many wild with whirling words, uttered on the spur of the excitement caused by the vast economic change that the Government had so successfully engineered.

The Government is to be congratulated on having at once met in such a liberal and statesmanlike manner the representations of the Banks, and we firmly believe that all classes of the community can look forward with confident hope to a greatly improved condition of things now that Siam is no longer to be affected by the curious antics of our old friend the silver dollar. The Banks are doing business both ways on the new Government rate of exchange, and the Government scheme may be said to have been fairly launched and to have weathered the breakers through which it necessarily had to pass at the outset. Its prosperous and unchequered further career will be wished by all friends of Siam.

The Government selling price of the tical is to-day (Dec. 23) 19½ ticals per pound sterling.—Singapore Free Press.

THE PHILIPPINES TARIFF AND CURRENCY.

A Washington telegram dated December 1, says:—Luke Wright, Vice-Governor of the Philippines, appeared before the Senate Committee on Philippines to-day and urged the passage of the bill reducing the duty on Philippine goods coming to this country to 25 per cent. of the Dingley rates. He also thought Chinese labourers should be allowed to come to the islands. Governor Wright also supported the bill for reform in the Philippine currency. Wright said that in his opinion the tariff of 75 per cent. which now obtains on all products shipped from the Philippines to the United States really amounts to a prohibition. He pleaded for larger and more liberal trade relations with the islands, and said that the ships bringing sugar and tobacco to this country should take back American products. Senators Burrows and Diederich challenged his statement that the existing tariff of 75 per cent. is prohibitive, and said that the imports of sugar since 1900 had increased steadily. Wright replied that the amount was a mere bagatelle compared with the production: "As a mere matter of sentiment," he said, "I think there is hardly anything Congress could do that would have such a fine effect upon the Filipino as to establish more intimate trade relations." It would, he said, remove the impression which exists among them that the Americans are there to exploit the islands and not to give them the benefit of American markets. The possibilities of sugar production in the Philippines, he said, would be unlimited were the importation of Chinese labour permitted. Replying to a question if it would not be better for the United States to produce its own sugar and obviate the necessity for shipping it across the Pacific, Wright said that as a Philippine Commissioner he was bound to advance the interests of the Filipino people. He next discussed the question of Philippine currency and urged authority for the Commission to issue temporary certificates of indebtedness, which shall be redeemable in gold coin and which could be exchanged for the peso. He was not, he said, in favour of unlimited coinage. The ultimate purpose of Congress, he thought, is undoubtedly to give to the Philippines the same currency as our own, but he said, it would be unfortunate to do that at once.

A despatch dated Washington, December 11, says:—The Senate Committee on Philippines discussed with Vice-Governor Wright the monetary situation in the archipelago. It was generally agreed that there would be difficulties in changing the currency in the islands. The consensus of opinion expressed was that the unit of value in the Philippines should be a gold peso of twelve and nine-tenths grains of gold, which is one-half the value of the United States gold dollar, and the peso in silver should be made legal tender of equal value in the units. Another feature upon which Governor Wright

and the members of the committee agreed was that United States currency should not be made legal tender in the islands, as the silver dollar would then be worth twice as much as the peso, containing more silver than the dollar, which would encourage counterfeiting of the United States dollar.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAPAN.

[FROM OUR TOKYO CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, 30th December.

Owing to the interesting condition of Japanese domestic politics at the present moment, and to the serious consequences that may follow from the present deadlock, it may not be out of place for me to go back a little, at the beginning of a new year, in order to show how things got into the tangle in which they are in to-day. The subject will be of all the more interest to readers of the *Hongkong Daily Press* inasmuch as some knowledge of it is requisite for a due understanding of the rejection of the naval expansion scheme. The latter phrase is somewhat misleading, however, as it was not the naval expansion scheme which was rejected by the parties in opposition, but the land tax continuation measure on which that scheme depended; but this matter will explain itself in due course.

WHY THE ITO CABINET FELL.

I shall only go back a year and a half, to the time when the Ito Cabinet fell in May 1901. Its fall was due to the prolonged suspension of the Government works insisted on by Viscount Watanabe, then Finance Minister, who saw or fancied he saw financial rocks ahead and who thereupon raised the cry of "national bankruptcy."

THE KATSURA CABINET.

On 2nd June a new Cabinet was rather unexpectedly organised by Viscount Katsura, now Count Katsura. The premature death of the Ito ministry just as the ministers and the other office-holders of the *Seiyu-kai* were beginning to feel snug in their new billets, and the unexpected success of Count Katsura in forming a ministry, caused the members of the displaced Cabinet and their friends to regard their successors with a dislike which was not unnatural in the circumstances, especially as the "strings" of the new cabinet were pulled by the House of Peers which is mainly opposed to Marquis Ito and which is a firm disbeliever in Government by party. Marquis Ito did not, it must be confessed, share the dislike with which his followers regarded the Katsura Cabinet; but strong and *ruse* as he is, he could not prevent the *Seiyu-kai* from gradually drifting into the position of a regular Parliamentary Opposition. Owing, however, to the Marquis's tour abroad, to a lack of homogeneity among the members of his party, and to the Marquis's telegrams to the *Seiyu-kai* leaders counselling patience and moderation, the latter felt themselves compelled to make various decided concessions to the Government, especially on the matter of the Budget. But this only served to make them feel more bitterly towards the Cabinet.

NEW IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

They had not long to wait for a chance of taking revenge. The land tax had been raised to 3.5 per cent, from 2.5 per cent, in 1899, and the Government which had raised it had promised at the time to reduce it to its original level in 1903. The people feared, however, that the Government would bring in a new bill and 1902 for the extension of the period of enhancement by five years more, so at the general election held last August, they made a number of candidates pledge themselves to oppose any such measure.

In the meantime the Government had elaborated a plan for the increase of the navy, a step which the whole country believes to be necessary owing to the state of affairs in the Far East, to the alliance with England, and to the fact that ten years hence Japan will be low down on the list of naval powers if she does not begin a new naval programme now that the time is completed.

Unfortunately the money required for the carrying out of this scheme could only, in the opinion of the Cabinet, be secured by the con-

tinuance of the land tax at its present rate. The naval programme agreed to by the Ministers of the Crown at a Cabinet meeting held on 23rd Oct. was to come into operation from the fiscal year 1903-4 and to extend over eleven years. The capital to be assigned for the purpose was estimated at about 11,500,000 yen, and the principal classes of ships to be built were three battleships of 15,000 tons, three armoured cruisers of 10,000 tons, and two second-class cruisers of 5,000 tons. The Government proposed to take the money required for the scheme from the proceeds of the enhanced land tax only and not to resort to any other source. The programme did not, however, tend to an increase of the navy in the real sense of the term, but rather to the maintenance of the country's naval strength.

OPPOSITION TO THE LAND TAX.

The Progressives, Count Okuma's party, who have always been opposed to the increase of the land tax—although one is surprised to find them in opposition to the naval expansion programme considering that they number in their ranks not a few Chauvinist politicians who spoke very excitedly at the time of the crisis in regard to Manchuria early in 1901—the Progressives, I say, promptly announced in an informal manner that they would oppose the continuance of the current land tax and also the naval expansion programme—the former because they had always been opposed to it, the latter because it was "inconsistent with the country's financial resources."

WHAT MARQUIS ITO DID.

Marquis Ito, who is a very deliberate and *ruse* politician, and who, being old, is perhaps coming to prefer compromise and discussion on almost all subjects, would probably have hemmed and hawed about the matter until the bills were introduced and then decided to support them so as not to derange the political machinery or to oppose such an evidently necessary measure as the naval expansion programme; but the task of deciding was very abruptly taken out of his hands by the General Committee of the *Seiyu-kai*, which flatly decided to oppose both measures, without the knowledge of the Marquis and before he had had time to express his own views on the subject. Then the Marquis became wonderfully brisk all of a sudden and emphatically endorsed the decision of his party. On 1st November he called on the Prime Minister to get from him some particulars about the Budget for the next fiscal year and of the financial programme. On 25th November, Marquis Ito had a conference with Marquis Yamagata, who had been staying in his villa at Kyoto, and who is styled the "custodian" of the present Cabinet; but the latter is said to have actually pook pooked Marquis Ito's views on the pending dispute, and to have given on that occasion no definite reply. In the next interview with Count Matsukata, Marquis Ito's plan also failed to secure that statesman's endorsement. Premier Katsura and three of the principal Ministers of State respectfully listened to Marquis Ito's exposition of his views, but did not adopt the measures he recommended. Marquis Ito's plan was to carry out the naval programme by effecting drastic curtailment with railway and telephonic undertakings. Irrespective of a remarkable retrenchment in many items of expenditure, the present Cabinet contemplated to expend 7,115,000,000 yen in the course of ten years for the purpose of such railway and telephonic works as it regarded as productive. Marquis Ito had been hitherto a strong advocate of a "positive" policy, but since his return from his latest round-the-world tour his opinions seem, strange as it may appear, to have become somewhat tinged by pessimism. The financial views which he recently expounded, were partly derived from Count Inouye, his old friend, who always entertains a preference for a somewhat "negative" policy and hunkers after the introduction of the mercantile system into the region of *la haute politique*.

Altogether, Marquis Ito's plan was given the cold shoulder in an unmitigated manner by the present Government and its "guardians."

CURIOUS SPECTACLE.

The public was next confronted with a curious political phenomenon; at a "social dinner" given on the 3rd December, at ex Foreign

Minister Kato's, Marquis Ito and Count Okuma shook hands for the first time for many years. This is, however, a hollow farce and cannot, it seems to me, continue for any length of time. The Diet was opened on 9th December, and the Cabinet submitted to the Legislature the Naval Expansion Bill and the Land Tax Bill at the very outset of the session, to decide their fate at once. Some party leaders intended to crush the Government by passing first of all a vote of lack of confidence in it, but Marquis Ito objected for some reason or other to this plan. Meanwhile, the Marquis proposed to examine rigidly the draft Budget with a view to economise funds for the naval programme and then to reject the land tax bill, but circumstances afterwards caused the Parliamentary leaders of the Opposition to think it advisable to strike at once, as any delay would in their opinion have had a bad effect on their followers, whose enthusiasm on the land tax question was at fever pitch; consequently, at the special committee meeting of the party held on the morning of 16th December, the Land Tax Bill was rejected by 24 to 3. At the formal sitting in the afternoon of the same day, the Land Tax Bill was brought in by an urgency motion, and when the bill was to be disposed of the Diet was prorogued for five days; that is until 24th December.

EFFORTS AT COMPROMISE.

During the interval, efforts were made by Baron Kodama, Governor-General of Formosa, with a view to mutual concessions and, later on, Prince Konoye offered to act as mediator. These attempts failed, and another prorogation was announced, this time for seven days. This shows that the Government was desirous of bringing about some sort of a compromise. Baron Kodama subsequently resumed the rôle of peace-maker and at the instance of the Premier, he called on Marquis Ito in his villa at Oiso. Thus a peace conference was held on 28th December between the Government and the Opposition, when the former intimated that it was prepared with the object of arriving at an amicable settlement, to 3 per cent, as against the original 3.5 per cent, and to cover the deficit that would thus be caused, by the postponement of some Government enterprises and by "administrative reform." But the parties in opposition flatly refused to lay before the Cabinet their counter-proposal. Their objections appear to have been sentimental and were at the same time tantamount to a vote of no confidence in the Ministry.

RUPTURE INEVITABLE.

Thus a rupture became inevitable, the Cabinet Ministers being firmly united. But it is interesting to note that the party leaders did their best to allay general uneasiness among the rank and file by declaring that the Cabinet would resign *en masse* or that the Land Tax Bill would be withdrawn.

LOWER HOUSE DISSOLVED.

The refractory House of Representatives was at last dissolved when it resumed its sittings on 28th December to finish the first reading of the Land Tax Bill, and at the same time, the House of Peers was further prorogued. This development of the situation is undoubtedly deplorable, especially since it tends to shackle financial circles, which were hoping that the money market would recover in the course of the spring. Setting aside the motives of both sides, it cannot be denied they fought out their battle in an orderly manner and that the session, now broken off, was more full of life and spirit than ever. This cannot but make one conclude that the Japanese may in due course adopt to greater perfection the Western representative system.

THE MARQUIS IN A STRAINTED POSITION.

In any case, that Marquis Ito has become the actual leader of the opposition is an unprecedented fact in the political annals of Japan. Prognostication is now useless. But it may be noted that the hands of Marquis Ito, who has been naturally dissatisfied at the manner in which the Cabinet and some of the elder statesmen met his last overtures, were gradually forced by the leaders of the *Seiyu-kai*. It may be that the attitude of the Marquis during the present political crisis is res something to be explained. It is, however, mainly due, to Marquis Ito's clever directions that his followers have now come to hold to the importance of the naval programme, despite of

the fact that some prominent party members had already spoken against that programme.

Nevertheless the present situation is discouraging to all friends of Japan, for there seems no way out of the difficulty which has arisen between the friends of party government headed by Marquis Ito and the friends of the oligarchical system headed by Marquis Yamagata and the majority of the Peers—for on this side there is no prominent personage, only an oligarchy. Japanese patriots console themselves, however, by laying to heart the words of John Stuart Mill, that the educational effect of constitutional Government outweighs all its defects.

INDIAN NOTES.

[FROM A BOMBAY CORRESPONDENT.]

THE INDIAN CURRENCY REFORM LEAGUE.

The recent slump in silver, the proposal to fix a gold standard for the Straits Settlements and the consequent depreciation in the value of the Mexican dollar are making matters rather gloomy for the Indian millowner. Hitherto one or two skilled writers have been endeavouring in and out of season, to din into the ears of local exporters to China that the protected rupee has been the cause of most of the trouble in connection with low dividends. They have also been trying to teach producers the economics of an artificial currency. They say that whereas the producer who purchases rupees in England with his produce is, according to the intrinsic value of the rupee, entitled to receive at present something like Rs. 23 for every sovereign realised, he now only gets Rs. 15, or Rs. 11 1/2 for each sovereign. This, of course, impoverishes the agricultural community and every one who is an exporter to gold-using countries. The mill owners' cry is loudest in reference to the depreciation of the Mexican dollar, which they say is no longer "almighty," as it brings them back fewer rupees. They have also serious reasons for becoming disheartened, as—and, perhaps, mill-agents in China will no doubt hear this with some surprise—new mills have been lately placed on the market at one-third their original cost without finding purchasers. Be this as it may, Imperial interests, looking at the currency problem from a broader point of view and taking the British Empire as a whole into consideration, is moved, so far, by these cries. With the hope of obtaining a more favourable ring by means of concerted action, some of the mill-owners of Bombay acting in sympathy with certain producers determined a few weeks back to form a Currency League and the result of their deliberations was a few days ago presented to the outside world in the form of the following circular:—

"The grievous effects of the artificial currency system, adopted by the Government of India in 1893 have become a source of grave anxiety to those intimately connected with the agricultural and industrial development of the country. In order to give recognised shape and form to the efforts of those who have hitherto raised solitary and ineffectual protests against the system, it has been thought advisable to organise some concerted action in this connection, and with this object 'The Indian Currency Reform League' has been started in Bombay.

"There is a wide consensus of opinion, among economists as well as business men, that India's economic welfare demands the reopening of the mints and the resolution passed by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in June, 1898, urging the same course, has therefore their full approval. If, however, the Government consider the reopening of the mints as impracticable, the league, by respectfully pointing out the disastrous consequences of a policy which threatens to impoverish the economic resources of the country, and involve agriculturists, planters and manufacturers in serious difficulties, will pray Government for the lowering of the rate to such a figure as would on the one hand give equilibrium to the country's finances and, on the other, substantial relief to producers and others.

"Fully convinced that the object aimed at is to avert further mischief, and to mitigate the hardship at present complained of, the Provisional Committee cordially invites all bankers,

manufacturers, traders, producers and others who sympathise with the object of the league to enrol themselves, as members, and with their support and assistance add weight and influence to the operations of the league."

Everywhere among mill-agents here, the chief topic is the gloomy outlook for the exporters of yarn to China. The losses already suffered by some owing to heavy shipments being forwarded with exchange unsecured is rather heavy. Mill owners are therefore turning their attention to weaving, in order to make up for the bad trade in spinning and orders for machinery have been already placed in England by the more up-to-date directorates. The interest of Bombay spinners is at the present moment up to high-water mark as regards the doings of mills in China. Mr. Jamieson, the British Commercial attaché in China, in his recently published report says a good deal about COTTON-SPINNING IN INDIA AND THE FAR EAST.

If he enters so heartily into the spirit of the thing and marshals his facts and figures, as he has done in the report just mentioned, in future reports, there is no doubt his efforts will encourage our competitors in the Far East to persevere with high hopes as to a bright future, which considering the currency problem affecting Bombay, gives them a long pull over us. The labour question and the doctoring of cotton are at present the two stumbling-blocks to the speedy development of the spinning industry in China. When these are removed, we here will have to go in for more weaving, or spin ourselves to liquidation, a by no means cheerful outlook for the already handicapped Indian spinner.

A GOLD STANDARD FOR THE STRAITS.

This is another subject which gives our mill-owners serious cause for uneasiness. The mere rumour of a gold standard for the Straits Settlements, has, they believe, sufficed to bring the already degraded Mexican very near to a par with the rupee, and they are afraid the adoption of a gold basis will drive it out of the monetary market and cause shippers here to face some big losses. Not many seem to understand here why it is believed in Singapore that Hongkong is bound to object to the gold currency proposal. I hear on good authority, however, that Sir C. P. Chater has been trying his best in London to bring about the adoption of a gold standard for Hongkong and also the Straits Settlements. Opinions are divided here as to the great advantages of the gold standard for the Straits, and those interested in Chinese dollars and taels look with grave anxiety at this new dark cloud on their already gloomy horizon.

THE MACKAY TREATY.

is looked at with much suspicion by the merchants who deal with the Far East. They were disposed to laugh at first at the idea of a *lekin*-less mandarin, but when it dawned on them through the columns of the *Indian Textile Journal* that the Viceroys were playing a deep game and were willing truly to abolish *lekin* because it paid them better to do so they began to look deeper into it. They are of opinion now that it would pay the Viceroys to get their squeezes direct from the Imperial Customs, unredressed by filtering to them through the cloud of hungry subordinates, and at the same time be free to find out one thousand and one ways for contravening the spirit of the new treaty and exacting new squeezes to replace *lekin* in the same "old fashion" for the mandarins. Then they think they are in an anomalous position as regards the indemnity. Either China can or cannot pay—he must be dealt with as France was by Germany. If she cannot pay it is no use giving her so many dollars through the Customs simply to receive it back as an indemnity in which Russia's share is so enormously large. Besides they think that they are dragged into taking part in the enrichment of China for the sake of paying off an indemnity in which they have no concern. But this is too one-sided as their trade has benefited by the quashing of the Boxer's rebellion. But on the whole their view is a rational one. According to them, China has come off best all along the line. Her Viceroys got money direct, every year. The Treaty provides the Mandarinate with new modes of taxation—and gives them the chance of looting poor farmers in the name of the indemnity for 39 years—till the time the whole

450,000,000 taels and the interest and compound interest are paid. The Government meanwhile enjoys additional income from the Customs to pay off the indemnity. With the other arrangements made by Sir James Mackay no one here is discontented.

THE CORONATION IN INDIA.

Besides the Durbar all India is to have a big holiday this Christmas. Government have paid its servants before the end of the month, as all its offices are to be closed till the 12th of January, 1903. The Bombay Committee have arranged to have a People's Fair with the new Revolving Railway as a feature—illuminations, crackers and a dinner to poor Christian widows, in the Town Hall on the 1st, when the guests will be served by the aristocracy of beauty and fashion.

THE GREAT DELHI DURBAR.

The sensation of the season with us is of course the Delhi Durbar. By the time this is in print it will be a thing of the past. The English mail steamers are bringing to our gates batches of the aristocracy, continental and English, millionaires and pleasure-seekers from all parts of the world. Some of the potentates come from places difficult to find even on a big map; but the cry is "still they come." Is it not strange that no members of the Jewish fraternity in the Far East who hail from Hindustan have their name in the lists of registers to different camps? There is going to be a gathering in Delhi such as never took place anywhere in the world since the dawn of history and man during the time that Solomon was at the zenith of his glory and the Queen of Sheba came to pay him homage. This is no exaggeration but a very modest way of stating a simple fact. There will be first and foremost the Ruling Princes of India and they are innumerable. They are to appear in their national costume, riding on elephants and camels and in specially built state carriages. The Gaekwar of Baroda takes with him his gold cannon, and some other equally rare treasure. The American millionaires are on the list, France and Germany and all the other European Powers will be represented. Japan will be there also and so will be the Siamese, the Burmese, the Mogul, the Turk, the Arab, the African, and every other people imaginable, as guests of the Government. It is stated that the cream of British Society are already in India. One of the fair visitors from the old country will wear among her other jewelry a diamond necklace worth a trifle like £80,000, and some of the dresses are to be wonders of their kind. There is nothing strange therefore in the rumours that are afloat about the likely attendance of the lightfingered gentry from America and London in the town of Delhi during the next few weeks. Expert knowledge gravitates always to the direction where a good demand is indicated. But the police and sanitary, lighting and other arrangements are in able hands and there need be no scare on this account.

COCAINE-EATING IN INDIA.

It might be news to your readers in China that some of the natives in this country are trying to establish their supremacy, as narcotics, to the opium-smokers of the Land of bebellions and Indemnities. Calcutta, where *blang* and *ganja* (Indian hemp, from which is extracted the drug *Cannabis Indica*) are used in different forms, first began the scandal by trying the exhilarating effects of a drug called cocaine officially described as "an alkaloid obtained from the leaves of *Erythroxylum Coca*." It travelled down to Bombay about two years and a half ago, and is sold openly in shops where betel nuts and betel leaves used by the natives can be had. The general effects of the cocaine-eating habit is to produce a feeling of goodwill to all mankind and to forgive your bitterest enemy. Some of your rival people will not appreciate the wisdom of this. It also gives one an overpowering impulse to seek pleasure or comfort in others, which amounts to the same thing. Appetite and sleep vanish, and the sensation of weariness never overcomes one so long as the craving is fed. It also kills all craving for solid food and the liquid nutriment which is palatable, milk by preference, but when that woe, comes in the wake of all this, and after one, two, three or four months of this to the strength of his constitution—

day suddenly finds his whole throat, from gullet to collarbone, paralysed, his tongue heavy, and insensible. Emaciation of the body sets in, and where the skin sinks in between the ribs, it turns dark, and his lips, tongue, and teeth assume a blackish colour from an earlier date. His head becomes suddenly senseless, and the various senses of intelligence and light become confused and jumbled, so much so that he forgets his cocaine altogether and tries to think and find out whether he is himself or somebody else. Let us hope that no mischief-monger will introduce the habit in Hongkong.

CHRISTMAS AT BALIK PAPAN.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Balik Papan, as some of your readers may be aware, is a small settlement in East Borneo, leased to Sir Marcus Samuel of the Shell Trading and Transport Company, and is the seat of a large and well appointed petroleum installation. The staff consists of some twenty or thirty Europeans, while close by is the native settlement or *kompong*, containing about 3,000 Malays, Klings and Chinamen, all more or less employed about the works. The genial manager, Mr. H. L. Chittenden, looks after the welfare of his large establishment, both physically and mentally, and at no time perhaps is his forethought shown more than at Christmas time. This Christmas was no exception. In the evening a large reception was held in the manager's house, or bungalow, to which all the employees on the concession were invited. The rooms resembled some Eastern palace, modernised by the aid of coloured electric lights, bunting and foliage. The Macassar Brass Band, consisting of 37 performers, was in attendance and discoursed dreamy waltzes or sprightly mazourkas at intervals, while the guests, many of whom were accompanied by their wives, took advantage of the music and were soon engaged in the many evolutions of the dance. An event of the evening was the exquisite rendering of Liszt's "Rhapsodie Hongroise," on the piano by Mr. W. G. Brock, the pianist here. Nor was vocal harmony wanting; songs being ably rendered by Mrs. Laver, Mr. Tyler, Mr. Burton, Mr. Blake, and Mr. Chittenden. After supper, which was served in a most *recherché* style, a company of natives gave a juggling performance, which I have seldom seen excelled even in the balls at home. After three hearty cheers for the manager, the company dispersed, the band playing "God Save the King" in its usual inimitable style.

But on Saturday the real fun of Christmas time began. The programme had already been told that on this day would be held a regatta, and aquatic sports by the natives. The flagship was the *Sabine Rickmers*, one of the Shell Transport Line's vessels, and at 9 a.m. the youth and beauty of Balik Papan began to arrive on board, where they were met by the well known and genial Capt. Connell, who exerted himself to make the day a memorable one for his visitors. In this he was ably assisted by his officers; while at the after end, the chief engineer, Mr. Murchie, flanked by Messrs. Seabrooke and Hansen, were doing their utmost to give the shorefolks a hearty sailor's welcome. After the usual hitch, which seems always to take place at regattas, the first race was started; that of sailing boats, manned by Malays, and this was followed in quick succession by sculling, canoe and native prau races, the culminating performance being the greasy-pole and the duck hunt. The last race of the day was that of the Borgeys (the Borneo coast natives) who in their prau made a grand show and had an exciting finish. Nor was the element of foul play wanting. Salim, a captain of one of the small steamers, running to Sausé Sanged, was coxswain of his crew in the pulling race. He was in the inside boat, and as soon as the gun fired he starboarded his helm, running athwart the bows of three or four of his opponents' boats, rendering them *hors de combat* for the time being. Fortunately he did not come in a way that was disqualifying is not understood by the mind and sometimes leads to serious consequences. The whole business was under the direction of Capt. T. Stokhuyzen, the

marine superintendent here, and was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I was amused at a remark I heard during the course of the race. One of the best known and respected men in the reservation is a native of Caledonia, and one of the officers from the flagship meeting him said, "A merry Christmas, John; I wish you the compliments of the season." "Season," dryly replied John "man, a seasons are alike here." On Saturday evening the whole company were the guests of the ladies at the Club, and were entertained in a style worthy of home. Dancing, singing, and games were indulged in, songs being sung by Mrs. Poppi, Mrs. Laver, and Mr. Tyler, while Captain Connell rendered "John Peel" in a way which brought a hearty *encore*. After supper, dancing was again indulged in and kept up till a late hour, when the assembled company sang "Auld Lang Syne" in fine style. Sunday morning brought a renewal of the sports, when the natives in the *kompong* had an enjoyable time, climbing the greasy pole, diving for money in a tub of treacle, flat races, and various other sports, which however ended in a slight dispute about the final division of the spoil, in which knives were drawn, a proceeding which was quickly put a stop to by the energetic Mr. T. Brown, who controls the police here.

PEKING.

Peking, 31st December.

THE VISIT OF GENERAL MILES

was a notable event for the city. The notables of the city were agog to see the great notability of the American army. The General was granted an audience by the Empress Dowager and the Emperor. A feast was given him by the high officials of the city and complimentary remarks were made by both parties. The officials thanked General Miles for the good part played by American soldiers in Peking and General Miles expressed the pleasure it gave his Government and army to do something for China. The General also visited the execution ground in the southern city and was disappointed to be just too late to see the heads of eight men roll off. His stay in Peking will be short, as he is en route round the world.

THE KETTLER MONUMENT

is finally completed. It is in the form of a *pailou*, or ornamental arch, and stretches across the great street running from the Hata-men to the north. It is made of Chinese marble, is extremely plain, but makes an impression of ruggedness and strength. The stone pillars must be nearly three feet in diameter. The roof is entirely of marble and looks as though it might stand for all time. On the north side there are traceries of flowers, but not distinct enough to be observed by the passer-by. On the south side on the frieze there are inscriptions in three languages, German, Chinese, and Latin, informing the public that this is a monument erected by the Emperor in memory of the German Minister, von Ketteler, who was nefariously killed by "Boxer bandits" on 20th June, 1900. This monument should be a standing warning to all to avoid like crimes. The Chinese word used for Emperor is Chen or the Imperial WE.

THE WORK WAS PROLONGED

by a row between the workmen and the police. The men at work on this Imperial job thought they had a right to break the law of the land by gambling every night in the tents erected on the street for their accommodation. The police interfered on a night, whereat the men turned on the police and drove them off. The next morning the police appeared in larger numbers and carried off the workmen to prison, where they were lodged for over a week, no work being done meanwhile.

THE COST

of the memorial is said to be about three hundred thousand taels. It will be a relief to all travellers when the obstructions are taken from the street. As it has been, carts for some time had to wallow through a bog by the side of the road in order to get along at all.

WHICH IS THE REAL YUAN SHI-KAI?

There are uncomfortable rumours about Yuan Shi-kai's last visit to Peking. Those who had relied upon him to give strong testimony to the Empress Dowager in favour of the reform movement, and, especially, the new University, were greatly disappointed. It now comes out

that he denounced the University and predicted a revolution in a few years, if the institution was continued. He, doubtless, thought such sentiments would be more agreeable to the lady of the palace than encouragement of the University which seems to have so many enemies.

THE OUTLOOK IS NOT ENCOURAGING FOR

REFORM.

and it looks as though all our hopes of paved streets, lighted by electricity, were to be blighted. Some government work is to be entered upon next year. The tower on the Front Gate is to be rebuilt and contractors are trying to find timbers of the proper size.

THE RUMOURS

concerning Tung Fu-shiang and Prince Tuan do not seem to make any stir in Peking. It would seem as though the insanity of the Conservatives would hardly go so far as to encourage in the slightest degree anything which would excite the animosity of foreigners, as they know full well it would bring condign punishment.—N.C. Daily News.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS AT WEIHAIWEI.

On New Year's Day, the N.C. Daily News says, His Honour the Commissioner of Weihaiwei presented the medals for the North China Expedition of 1900 to the officers and men of the Chinese Regiment. Expiration of service, disbandment, and reduction have combined sadly to diminish the ranks of those who went through the troubles nearly three years ago, but still a goodly number of medals were presented—probably to 20 per cent. of the regiment as it stood on parade.

Before the presentation Mr. Stewart-Lockhart addressed the regiment as follows:—Major Bruce, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Chinese Regiment. When I was asked to present these medals to-day, I at once replied that I acceded to the request with pleasure, because ever since I first arrived at Weihaiwei the officers of the regiment have evinced such friendly feelings to me that I was only too glad to avail myself of this opportunity to show that those feelings are heartily reciprocated. From the officer commanding to the most junior officer, I regard you all as friends, and it affords me great pleasure to present those officers who have so well deserved them the medals which, by their deeds of valour, they have won. I am also proud, as the representative of the King in this Dependency, to present to His Majesty's soldiers, who have fought in his cause, the Royal token of His Majesty's appreciation of their gallantry under most trying and exceptional circumstances. It is said that the present is a medal-hunting age, and I am afraid that self-advertisement does exist to a certain extent. But even if we do live in a "Pears' Soap Age," it is not everyone who struggles to place all his good qualities before the eyes of a curious public. The Chinese Regiment most certainly is not one that advertises itself, and the medals which I am about to present have been well-earned. It is not necessary for me to dwell on the events which occurred in the North of China in 1900, and which are now historical, but I should like to remind you that in those events the Chinese regiment took a prominent part. In fact, no unit of the Chinese Expeditionary Force took a share so many of the expeditions constituting the campaign as did the Chinese Regiment. It was present at the siege of Tientsin, and was among the first to enter that city when it was captured by the Allies. In connection with that entry, the memory of one of your sergeants, Chi Tienkui, will ever remain green on account of his having led into the city a half-company without the assistance of any European. The regiment also took part in what her late Majesty Queen Victoria described as the "memorable advance" to Peking, which resulted in the relief of the Legations. No fewer than twenty-three officers and men of the regiment were killed and eighteen wounded whilst serving in North China, which is a very large percentage considering that the total number of the regiment in the field only amounted to 385. I say, therefore, that the regiment has well deserved its reward. But there are certain exceptional circumstances which make the services of the regiment in North China especially remarkable. It was barely one year old when it had to undergo its

baptism of fire, and it certainly reflects the greatest credit on the officers and non-commissioned officers responsible for the training of the men themselves that the regiment was not only able to hold its own with old veterans long trained to the use of arms but that the men so greatly distinguished themselves when fighting in their own country and against their own countrymen. It has become almost a fashion to sneer at the British officer. Arm-chair criticism is not often of much value. At any rate, the officers of the Chinese Regiment have succeeded where others have failed. Our friends in a neighbouring Colony have abandoned their attempts to create a Chinese regiment. Anyone who had the opportunity I am now enjoying of seeing this smart regiment on parade, could not fail to be struck and surprised by what has been accomplished so well in so brief a space of time. The history of the regiment is short, but its record is one of which any corps might be justly proud. Everyone who has seen the regiment must be indeed glad it is to continue as one of the units of His Majesty's military forces. I am confident that, whenever called upon, it will prove itself in the future, as it has done in the past, true to its colours, and will add fresh laurels to its fame.

The medals were then handed personally to each recipient by His Honour, who took the opportunity of saying a few words of congratulation and encouragement to each. The proceedings terminated with a *feu-d-joi* in honour of the proclamation of His Majesty King Edward VII as Emperor of India.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 13th January.

SIR.—The report and accounts of the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., for the past year have been published in our local prints and offer a fair subject for criticism. We see that a sum of \$81,022.02 is represented as the net profit for the year, out of which \$80,000, or practically the whole, is to be distributed as dividend. This is magnificent liberality, especially when, on looking a little into the accounts, we find that this sum is more than the Company earned during the year. It includes, as will be seen, in addition to \$2,285.58 brought forward from the preceding year's account, a sum of \$2,000 written off as unclaimed dividends. This is the first time in the history of a local Company that has been in existence barely four years that such a large amount of unclaimed dividends has been proposed to be forfeited. I presume that the Company, of course, is within its legal rights in dealing with those dividends in that manner, but it cannot be contended that this drastic step will improve the estimation in which the Company is held by the public. But the fact serves to show how great is the anxiety to declare a big dividend.

How does this proposed appropriation of the Company's funds compare with what has been dinned into our ears recently about the danger of milking our cows too dry, and the wisdom of a policy of consolidation and concentration? In every well-managed Company a proportion of, at least 15 to 20 per cent. of the net profits is put aside for contingencies, for reserve or equalisation of dividend funds. Why is not the same course recommended in this instance? I am unable to fathom the reason, but the result will be, since the market price of shares is regulated, as a rule, by the amount of the dividend, the stock of this Company will command, at least temporarily, an undeservedly high value and investors will consequently burn their fingers.

In the case of a concern with assets worth more than five times their book value, an extra dollar was grudged the shareholders so that the Directors may be enabled to write off about 58 per cent. of the net profits for the year.

And now we have a company that proposes to pay the shareholders a larger sum in dividends than it can be said to have actually earned. What is the explanation?—Yours, etc.,

J. R. MICHAEL

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 14th January.

SIR.—With reference to the remarks made at the meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce on the currency question, no member expressed any views as to the great possibility of silver becoming a mere commodity like tin, etc., and certainly if Indo-China, the Straits, the Philippines, Mexico, and other American States "go gold" and consequently demonetise silver, as is highly probable, the white metal will become a drug in the market and we shall have a dollar worth sixpence, or perhaps less, and be the only country except China trying to use silver as a standard of value. In such an event will the Colony be able to pay its gold indebtedness (sterling loans, salaries of officials, contributions to the War Office, etc.) and still flourish?

Since Government officials received the last two exchange compensations their salaries have increased in dollars about 100 per cent., which alone is a considerable increase to the expenditure of the Colony, and with a further drop of a shilling in exchange this one item will make a further considerable increase in the expenditure. In any other Colony but this the Government would be taking some interest in the matter, but I presume they are waiting until the last moment, and as in the case of calling experts to better the health of the Colony and later on in amending the Building Ordinance, they are waiting till they are forced by a number of deaths, or in this case excess expenditure over income, to move in the matter.

I have heard several men say that the falling dollar has increased the export trade the last few years and added greatly to Hongkong's prosperity, but if those men taken the average rate of exchange for the three or four years before 1902, I think they will find it averaged 1s. 11d. to 2s., or what one might call a fixed exchange, and the year 1902 cannot be called a very prosperous year for Hongkong, and lately one has heard of the increased cost of rice, etc., and general stagnation in trade: *this occurs on the first big drop of silver for five years!*

The Chairman talked of getting rid of surplus millions, and as regards calling a general meeting, said that no one will come forward with a scheme to show how the change to gold can be made; but I take it this is not the point. The first thing to decide is: "Is it advisable to try for some stability in exchange and place the country on a gold basis," and then, if the members are in favour of doing so, to call for experts' assistance to show how it can be done and the surplus millions got rid of?

Mr. Shewan said wages have risen, which is true, and infers that they have risen equally with the fall in exchange, which I don't think is correct, as that would mean a rise of 25 to 30 per cent. in the last three or four years, taking the rate at somewhere near 2s., which it was for some time. As for the statement made that wages will rise as the sterling value of the dollar falls and that conditions will adjust themselves until that limit, which cannot be very far off now, is reached, I doubt if any firm will give its employees a rise of 100 per cent. if the dollar drops to a shilling (i.e., that it will, if exchange drops to a shilling in the next year or two, pay an employee who was receiving \$400 a month a year or two ago \$800); and, as for the limit being reached, it is said that there are mines which can be worked at a profit at a shilling an ounce, and it is also well known that there are many mines worked for gold and other minerals turning out quantities of silver which can be sold at 6d. an ounce without making any very perceptible difference on the profits made by those mines.

Mr. Shewan said that the banks would have to open branches in Canton and the trade and industries of Hongkong would in consequence suffer a severe blow—but why? I quite agree with him that the banks would have to open in Canton chiefly for the purpose of getting rid of

any silver they received; but I quite fail to see why the trade of this place should suffer because export merchants were basing their silk purchases (say) and had to work out their rates between silver-using Canton and gold-using Hongkong and London instead of basing their rates between silver Hongkong and gold London only: even now they have to allow some slight difference between Hongkong and Canton, so it would not require any great effort to allow, too, for the further difference in exchange in the bank rates at Canton and Hongkong. The banks would no doubt, being in such close proximity to China, be freely operating in silver, and I daresay would quote daily in Hongkong their buying and selling rates for silver in Hongkong currency.

A turning point has already, in my opinion, been reached, and the Hongkong public generally will in another three or four years, when silver has been demonetised all over the world and the dollar is worth anything under half a rupee, say 81., regret that they did not at this time make an effort for a gold currency.—Yours, etc.,

X.

CHINA-BORNEO CO., LD.

A meeting of the above Company was held on the 14th inst. in the offices, 4, Queen's Buildings. Hon. C. S. Sharp presided, and there were also present Sir C. Paul Chater, Messrs. E. Osborne, A. G. Wood, J. A. Jupp, W. H. Wickham, A. Baptista, J. C. C. Master, and Leung Shiu Lun.

The CHAIRMAN moved the resolution (which had been passed at a previous meeting of shareholders) for the reconstitution of the Company.

Mr. JUPP seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

The following is the report of the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., for presentation to the shareholders at the sixth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers, to-day, the 17th January, at 11 a.m.:

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December, 1902. The gross earnings for the past year amount to \$107,158.33, and after deducting all expenses, remuneration to general managers, consulting committee's and auditors' fees, there remains a balance of \$81,022.02 which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund	\$1,000.00
To pay a dividend of 8 per cent.	80,000.00
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account	22.02

The paid up capital has now reached the limit of \$1,000,000.00 fixed by the special resolutions of 22nd January and 11th February, 1902.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. H. Lewis was elected to the committee on his return to the Colony in the place of Mr. H. P. White resigned. In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Chau Fung Shang and J. H. Lewis retire, and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 8th January, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

Charges	\$6,288.15
Consulting committee's fee	4,000.00
Auditors' fee	200.00
Depreciation for 1902	100.00
Balance	\$1,022.02
	\$1,610.17

Balance	\$ 2,235.58
Interest on mortgages, loans, &c. \$107,153.33	
Less interest paid, commission, &c., &c.	19,833.74
	87,324.59
Unclaimed dividends written off	2,000.00
	\$91,610.17

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital 200,000 shares at \$10 \$2,000,000.00	
Less 100,000 shares uncalled	1,000,000.00
	1,000,000.00
Reserve fund	47,000.00
6 per cent. debentures	12,200.00
Sundry creditors	4,740.40
Due to general managers	6,451.51
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	59,468.41
Balance of profit and loss	81,022.02
	\$1,208,832.34

ASSETS.

	\$ c.
Loans—Provident loans	\$578,315.31
Loans on mortgages, shares, &c.	622,349.75
	1,200,665.06
Furniture, as per last statement	\$750.00
Less depreciation	100.00
	650.00
Sundry debtors	6,011.35
Cash	1,555.93
	\$1,208,832.34

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LTD.

The following is the report of the directors to the twelfth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Bank, Victoria Buildings, Hongkong, on Wednesday, 21st January, at noon:—

GENTLEMEN.—The Directors have now the pleasure to submit to you the accounts and balance-sheet for the year ending 31st Dec., 1902.

Before closing the books for the year \$60,000.00 had to be written off the second reserve fund for defalcations and fraud by our late comrade in Yokohama.

The gross profits, including \$21,235.51 brought forward from last year, are \$248,799.24, which after deducting all charges and allowing for bad and doubtful debts leaves a net profit of \$145,103.95.

This the Directors propose to deal with as follows:—To pay a dividend of \$1.96½ per share (in London 3/1½) absorbing \$79,491.15, to place \$50,000.00 to reserve and to carry forward \$15,613.81.

On the departure of Mr. Lants for Europe in April Mr. Julius Focke was elected a Director but resigned his seat in the autumn, when Mr. Lants, having returned to Hongkong, was re-elected—this will require your confirmation.

Mr. Ewens retires in rotation from the Head Office Board and Mr. Wotton from the London Committee and being eligible for re-election offer themselves accordingly.

The accounts at the Head Office have been audited by Mr. R. C. Wilcox and in London by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Co., Chartered Accountants.

Your obedient servant,

C. EWENS, Chairman.

Hongkong, 7th January, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.—31st December 1902.	\$ c.
LIABILITIES.	
Capital, 750 fully paid founder's shares of £1 each (laid down in the East at exchange of 3s.)	5,000.00
Capital, partly paid, £323,624 (laid down in the East at exchange of 3s.)	2,157,493.31
Capital reserve fund	191,973.33
Reserve fund	65,533.35
	2,421,000.00
Notes in circulation	477,295.00
Fixed deposits and current accounts	735,379.50
Loans payable	250,000.00
Bills for collection and branch balances	283,572.45
Drafts, acceptances and endorsements (bills rediscounted)	370,606.91
Balance of profit and loss account	145,103.95
	\$4,631,887.81

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash on hand and at bankers	533,238.61
Government securities belonging to the bank	315,759.03
Bills receivable, loans and advances	2,046,040.76
Bills for collection receivable and branch balances	1,769,347.39
Adjustments	2,452.00
Furniture	15,000.00
	\$4,631,887.81

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$ c.
31st December, 1902.	
Charges, directors' fees and salaries	103,695.29
Amount to be placed to reserve fund	\$50,000.00
Dividend account, proposed payment of \$1.96½ per share on 40,453 shares (3 1½ per share in London at exchange of 17 1-16th)	79,491.15
Balance to be carried forward to next account	15,613.80
	\$145,103.95

	\$ c.
Balance brought forward from last year	21,235.51
Gross earnings for year ending 31st December, 1902	217,563.74
	\$248,799.24

	\$ c.
On 1st January, 1903, our CAPITAL and RESERVE FUNDS will stand as follows:—	
Capital—fully paid founder's shares	5,000.00
Capital—partly paid ordinary shares	2,157,493.32
Capital—reserve fund	191,973.33
Reserve fund	115,533.35
	\$2,470,000.00

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 12th January.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A. G. WILKIE (PUISNE JUDGE).

PAU LEUNG AND OTHERS v. PAU KWOK CHIU.

This was a petition for leave to appeal from the decree made by the Chief Justice on 10th September. In the case as originally brought Pau Leung and his two brothers applied for a petition for administration of their father's estate by the Court and for account of executorship to be taken, and his Lordship after hearing parties made a decree that the terms of the will be carried out and that the usual accounts be taken. He ordered that the release of date 15th April, 1893, be set aside and gave plaintiffs costs so far as properly incurred for the purpose of setting it aside. So far as the action did not ask for the setting aside of the release, he could not then decide the question of costs.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law appeared for the appellant (instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor), and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, appeared for the respondent (instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor). Mr. T. Morgan Phillips barrister-at-law, who had appeared for the defendant in the original case, was also in attendance.

Before Mr. Sharp began to address their Lordships,

The Puisse Judge remarked that so far as he could understand, the appellant was appealing from a consent order; the whole thing as drawn up was by consent.

Mr. Sharp said he was appealing from the consent order so far as that order related to the setting aside of the release. Most of the order was by consent. The part relating to costs was not by consent, and it was that they were appealing against.

The Puisse Judge was of opinion that the learned Judge who drew up this order thought the whole thing was by consent.

The Chief Justice said this case was a little anomalous. The decree was drawn up and settled in presence of counsel in his chambers and then some days afterwards there was a change of solicitors, Messrs. Dawson & Hastings being engaged. The first thing that occurred was Mr. Hastings writing in, requesting time to consider the matter, after decree had been given. That was most absurd. A new solicitor

was imported after the decree was settled and he suggested that he had better be allowed to consider the decree which had been settled by counsel on both sides. Now the present solicitors were finding fault with the decree, which his Lordship certainly assumed was drawn up by consent. Nothing was said at that time to indicate that the decree was not drawn up by consent of parties.

The Puisse Judge remarked that he did not want to "burke" any appeal, but there was no evidence before them to show that the order was not by consent. There should be an affidavit or something of that kind.

The Chief Justice added that the only rational assumption was that the whole thing was by consent all through. He believed and thought that the whole order was by consent. When the parties left his chambers there was no mention made about either side being displeased with the decree. His memory was that no authorities were quoted to him to show that he had no power to make that order and if it had been mentioned he would have dealt in the judgment with the alleged misconduct.

Mr. Sharp said his client had to go into Court because they were charged with fraud. Mr. Morgan Phillips had consented to the decree simply as expressing his Lordship's views with regard to the costs.

The Chief Justice repeated that he assumed the decree to have been made by consent. The appellant admitted that the release was given to him while the respondents were under age. His opinion was that an executor ought to be very careful.

Mr. Sharp said that as a matter of fact these young men were indebted to the appellant in the sum of \$6,000.

The Chief Justice—He must be a very kind executor.

Mr. Sharp contended that the trustee was entitled to his costs until the allegation against him of gross misconduct was adjudicated upon, until the accounts had been given and enquiries made. The other side could have as many enquiries as they wanted. They had charged the respondent all through the petition with fraud and that was the reason the case came into Court. Had they been satisfied with the ordinary release and accounts, the case would never have come into Court. The question of costs could be left to the end. If they could show as the result of their enquiries that the defendant had been guilty of fraud, no doubt he would be entitled to pay the costs at the finish, and probably the costs of the action as well.

The Chief Justice pointed out that Mr. Morgan Phillips had asked that the release be set aside.

Mr. Sharp said it was set aside for the purpose of taking the account.

After hearing Mr. Morgan Phillips with reference to the arrangement come to with regard to costs,

their Lordships dismissed the appeal with costs in the cause.

The Court adjourned.

ENQUIRIES INTO COLLAPSES OF BUILDINGS.

TUNG LOI LANE.

The enquiry was resumed on the 12th inst. before Mr. F. A. Hazlind and a common jury into the circumstances attending the fatal collapse of two houses in Tung Loi Lane (near the Harbour Office) on 12th November last. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Crown, and Mr. H. W. Looker on behalf of the contractors (the Wing Sing firm), the shorers, and the architects, Messrs Leigh and Orange.

The jurors were—Messrs. W. Goldenberg, C. H. Blason, and E. W. Terrey.

H. P. Tooker, executive engineer, Public Works Department, was recalled and examined by Mr. Looker and Mr. Bowley. In reply to a jurymen, he said there were fifteen tons of goods between the ground and first floors of No. 12. Had that weight been all on the first floor, it would be rather heavy for an ordinary Chinese floor.

Replying to Mr. Bowley, witness said the floor was better supported than an ordinary Chinese floor, being supported by a double set of joists, and fifteen tons was not an excessive

weight, considering the construction of the floor.

Evan Dougherty, an overseer in the Public Works, who left hospital to give evidence and was accommodated with a chair, said that when he went down to the scene on the afternoon of the collapse he saw some persons removing 100 bags of what was described to him as starch from the ruins of No. 12, Tung Loi Lane, but he could not say whether the bags actually came from the first floor. By the way they were lying, he judged they came from the first floor.

Henry Ernest Yorke Haggard, who examined the premises after the collapse, gave the thickness of the wall which fell as 13 inches on the ground floor, 14 inches on the first floor, and nine inches on the two top floors. That was less than the thickness required by the Ordinance for top floors. From what he saw, he should not say that the wall was a good one, and nearly all the joists were decayed at the end. Witness was of opinion that the floor fell first owing to being over-weighted, dragging out a portion of the wall and so bringing the rest down.

Examined by Mr. Looker, witness said he examined the beams, the ends of which were decayed, and some of them had the appearance of having broken off. Some of the beams of the first floor of No. 12, he was of opinion, gave way in the middle, and if the wall had collapsed first these beams would probably not have been broken at all.

Percy Thomas Cisp, inspector of buildings, said he obtained from a Chinaman at the collapsed houses the description and weight of goods stored in No. 12; the total weight was nearly 34½ tons, but witness could not say how it had been distributed. His theory as to the cause of the collapse was that the weight on the floors caused the ends of the rotten joists to break and throw the weight of the goods on the wall, pushing the brickwork out and causing the wall to collapse.

Arthur Turner, architect, was called by Mr. Looker and testified to the satisfactory nature of the shoring. He was also examined by Mr. Bowley, and stated that the pulling down of a house was always a dangerous operation, for the Chinese coolie was rather reckless in the way of dropping bricks; it was not dangerous, however, to the adjoining houses.

Leung Yi Tai, the scaffolder, was re-examined by Mr. Bowley as to the relative cost of the shorings on the job, after which the hearing was adjourned.

The enquiry was concluded on the 13th inst.

Y. K. Foo Mun, manager of a Chinese mercantile firm which at the time of the collapse occupied premises in Wing Lok Street and Tung Loi Lane, was recalled and examined by Mr. Bowley as to the goods stored in No. 12, Tung Loi Lane when the accident occurred. There were 130 bags of pepper and sago flour, 50 bags being on the first floor and 80 on the ground floor. The extra supports to the first floor were put up three years ago, when the firm took up tenancy of the premises, and some of the old joists supporting the first floor were decayed when the collapse occurred, but none of the supporting timbers were decayed.

In answer to Mr. Looker, witness said that the entries in the book from which he was quoting the amount of goods stored in and issued from the premises were made by a head coolie, but witness could vouch for their accuracy, as the book was shown to him every night for the purpose of enabling him to check the entries by an examination of the goods.

By a juryman—The goods mentioned were not leaning against the party wall between Nos. 12 and 14, Tung Loi Lane.

This concluded the evidence, and Mr. Looker said he wished to put in a copy of a letter which might throw some light on the subject—one written by Messrs. Stephens and Thomson, solicitors, to Mr. Chatham, Director of Public Works, on 27th December, 1901, requesting him to inspect these premises at 126-128, Wing Lok Street and to declare the wall dangerous. In his answer, continued Mr. Looker, Mr. Chatham said he could not accede to the request, and added that he regarded it as little short of miraculous that there had not been a serious collapse of the building hitherto, as on visiting the premises he found bags, presumably containing rice, stacked about ten feet high in

places, on the two upper floors. The point he wished to emphasise, said Mr. Looker, was that these people—the last witness's firm—were in the habit of storing cargo ten feet high on the upper floors of the premises.

His Worship—I don't think it is evidence.

Mr. Looker—I think it is evidence of the way these premises were used as godowns.

Mr. Bowley—There is nothing on the face of the letter to show that it refers to houses in Wing Lok Street, or even to houses in Hongkong.

His Worship—I don't think the letter ought to be admitted. Anything with reference to what took place a year ago is not relevant.

Mr. Looker—Very well, your Worship.

Addressing the jury, Mr. Looker referred to the objects of the enquiry, and said there was a good deal of difference between criminal negligence and ordinary negligence. Under the former head the jury had to come to the conclusion that somebody, from the owners down to the men actually employed on the work, had been guilty of negligence of such a description as to be utterly reckless; but if the jury found on the other hand, that the precautions which had been taken in the present case were the precautions suggested by earlier experience in similar cases, then they had no right to bring in a verdict of criminal negligence. Mr. Looker said he had been informed by the Crown Solicitor that there was no responsibility whatever on the architects in connection with the collapse, and he would therefore bring the case down to the contractor and shorer, against whom, he submitted, there was no evidence that could possibly convict them of criminal negligence. Mr. Looker detailed the history of the houses, and compared their collapse with that of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which, after standing for years and years in the position indicated by its name, had recently fallen. Now, who could be blamed for that?

Mr. Bowley—It wasn't the Leaning Tower of Pisa; it was the Campanile at Venice that fell. (Laughter.)

Mr. Looker begged pardon, and said that anyway the blame for the collapse of the Campanile could not reasonably be fixed on anyone. In the case under review there was certainly reasonable ground that it was the rottenness of the first floor joists of No. 12 and the extra weight being placed on them that caused the collapse of the floor and then of the wall. What actually caused the collapse of the wall it was impossible to say, but that it did collapse was not necessarily anybody's fault, and, Mr. Looker concluded, he would submit that, so far as concerned any of the parties who were engaged in the pulling down and rebuilding and the shoring of the wall, they were not guilty of any negligence at all.

Mr. Bowley said they were not trying the case of the fall of the Campanile; if they were, he thought there would be evidence to show that building operations were going on in the vicinity, and that the tower had not been properly shored up. Regarding the present case, however, there were two theories to account for the collapse, one that the first floor of No. 12 broke and brought the house down, and the other that the wall being shaken by the building operations, fell through, and caused the collapse. The evidence, Mr. Bowley thought, went to show that the floor was not excessively weighted, and therefore the jury might dismiss that theory of the collapse altogether. The cause of the collapse, as shown by the evidence, was the disturbance of the wall by the building operations, and the contractor and shorer were the only persons responsible for the work. It had been given in evidence that the owner of No. 14 refused to remove the goods from the premises, and at his request the contractor and shorer put up a partition after the goods had been moved only a few feet from the wall to permit the lateral shoring to go up. But there was no evidence to show they pointed out to the shopkeeper that there was danger in what he did. The building contractor and the scaffolding contractor were the two men who did know the danger, and in spite of that knowledge they did as the shopkeeper asked them—put up the partition and left the first floor unsupported by sloping shores because of that partition, as they said. Mr. Bowley, who reviewed the evidence at length, submitted that the blame, if there was any blame, rested entirely on the contractor and shorer.

His Worship addressed the jury, quoting authorities for their guidance, and they then retired, to return later with a verdict that the cause of the death of the two deceased was the collapse of the party wall between Nos. 12 and 14, Tung Loi Lane, and that the deaths of the deceased were not the result of criminal negligence.

This concludes the series of enquiries.

CRICKET.

H. K. C. C. v. THE NAVY.

Raw, cheerless and damp, the 10th inst. was anything but an ideal day for cricket. In spite, however, of the unpleasant climatic conditions, the above match was played on the Club ground and ended in a draw very much in favour of the Navy. A good deal of difficulty was experienced in getting together a Club team, and the eleven that eventually took the field could not by any means be considered a representative one. Minus an efficient wicket-keeper and weak in batting and fielding, it is not to be wondered at that the Club came off second best; indeed, not a little credit is due to the team for their game struggle against their strong opponents. It would seem that already the cricket season is on the wane and unless it is to expire before its time, greater keenness must be displayed by the playing members. As usual, a late start was made, chiefly owing to the unpunctuality of several members of the Club XI, and it was five minutes past noon when W. Dixon sent down the first ball from the City Hall end. Ward had beaten Garde in the "spin of the coin" but contrary to custom, and, as it turned out, with disastrous results, he put his opponents in first. Garde and Bird were the first pair of batsmen and Bird shared the bowling with W. Dixon. The start was an unfortunate one for the Navy, as, with the score at 7, Garde was well taken in the slips by J. T. Dixon off his brother's bowling. Bedwell, the next man, succumbed to the first ball he received, and with but 5 runs added to the score, Bird was caught at point off a very lame stroke. Here, however, the Naval disasters and the Club successes ended, as, on Cooke joining Jackson who had followed Bedwell a determined stand was made and the two batsmen defied all attempts to dislodge them. Both played good, sound cricket and took the score to 60 when the tiffin bell rang. After tiffin Jackson was late—he mistook the time for continuing—and so, by the courtesy of the Club Captain, Raymond was allowed to go in instead. The last-comer might have been caught at cover off the first ball he received and was badly missed by Hickling off the second, but after these two escapes, he settled down and played excellent cricket. In the meantime, Cooke was playing uncommonly well, his cutting being especially fine, and frequent changes in the bowling seemed to have little or no effect upon him or his partner. At length, however, Raymond was bowled for a useful 32 and Jackson continued his innings. He should have been caught at the wicket almost at once, but after this he, too, played soundly and he and Cooke were still together when, at 3.15, Garde applied the pressure, then being 197 for 4 wickets. Cooke carried out his bat for an admirable 101, which contained one 6 and seven 4s. His splendid innings was somewhat marred by three chances—a hard return to J. T. Dixon at the wicket, and a very hard drive to mid-off—but in spite of these little defects, his batting was thoroughly good and a treat to watch. Jackson's 39 not out was a carefully played innings and to him almost equally with Cooke belongs the credit of stopping the rot which at one time appeared imminent. None of the Club bowlers met with much success, but most of them bowled far better than their analysis shows, the Naval men having, at first, considerable difficulty in scoring with any rapidity, and had their efforts been backed up

by even average fielding, the Naval score might well have been considerably smaller. As it was the fielding was execrable and the catching worse, and until the club players realise the importance of this branch of the game and get about remedying the defect, they must expect big scores to be piled up against them. In an almost hopeless position—there was not time to make runs, and, on the other hand, there was plenty of time to get out—the club started their innings. Fanshawe and J. T. Dixon went in first, and it must be said at once, they played very well. Dixon especially showing better form than he has previously. The score was taken to 46 before Fanshawe was caught for a useful 15. Woodgates hit a 6 and a 2, but then skied a ball to Bisset at mid-on which that fieldman held. Fawcett followed, but at once lost his partner who was smartly caught at the wicket. J. T. had played sterling cricket for 34 and he made some particularly fine strokes between point and cover. W. Dixon was out to a neat catch at point and Ward came in. By careful cricket the score was taken to 86 when Ward was bowled off his pads just as he appeared to be getting set. Fawcett left at 102 having played soundly, for his 22. Mackenzie played carefully. Lammert, after a lucky snick for 4, was beautifully caught by Bisset. Bird was caught by his namesake and then it was time, the total having reached 116 for 8 wickets. Of course it was a "moral" win for the Navy, nevertheless a certain amount of credit is due to the club batsmen for their success in staving off defeat. The Naval fielding was good and the catching in direct contrast to the club's attempts in the same department. Fitch bowled well, taking 4 wickets for 27, and was perhaps less injurious (physically) than usual. Dalrymple's analysis is worth noting; none of the batsmen seemed to be able to do anything with his bowling. By the kindness of Admiral Grenfell and Officers, a Naval band played an excellent selection. The inclemency of the weather doubtless prevented a large attendance of spectators, though a few ladies were plucky enough to brave the elements. The following are the full scores and analyses:—

THE NAVY.

R. B. Garde, R.N. (Capt.), c J. T. Dixon, b W. Dixon	4
Lt. Bird, R.M.L.I., c Heron, b Bird	1
Lt. Bedwell, R.N., b W. Dixon	0
Lt. Jackson, R.N., not out	39
G. A. Cooke, R.N., not out	102
Lt. Raymond, R.N., b Fanshawe	32
Mid. Bisset, R.N.,	
Lt. Dalrymple, R.N.,	
R. H. Carter, R.N.,	did not bat
Lt. Lampen, R.M.L.I.,	
E. W. Fitch, R.N.,	
Extras	19

Total (4 wickets) 197

H.K.F.C.

Lt. Fanshawe, R.A., c Bird, b Fitch	15
J. T. Dixon, c Garde, b Carter	34
J. A. Woodgates, c Bisset, b Carter	8
Capt. Fawcett, R.A., c Bird, b Fitch	22
W. Dixon, c Jackson, b Fitch	0
A. G. Ward (Capt.), b Dalrymple	18
A. Mackenzie, not out	4
G. P. Lammert, c Bisset, b Dalrymple	4
E. E. O. Bird, c Bird, b Fitch	4
Rev. C. C. Hickling, } did not bat	
G. O. Heron, }	
Extras	7

Total (8 wickets) 116

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE NAVY.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
W. Dixon	14	3	53	2
Bird	13	5	21	1
Fitch	3	24	—	—
	—	—	21	—
	—	—	11	—
	—	—	35	1
	—	—	14	—
	—	—	—	—
	18.2	5	37	4
	4	—	28	—
	8	3	16	2
	4	1	17	—
Dalrymple	5	4	1	2

CIVIL SERVICE C.C. v. PARSEE C.C.

This match was played at the Happy Valley on the 10th inst. and ended in a victory for the latter. The following are the scores:—

CIVIL SERVICE C.C.

P. T. Iamble, c Ruttonjee, b Pestonji	8
R. C. Wittchell, c Cooper, b Pestonji	2
L. E. Brett, c Doctor, b Pestonji	1
W. Woolley (Capt.), b Pestonji	4
H. Hoggarth, b Doctor	0
I. A. Wheel, c Movrawala, b Pestonji	0
R. H. A. Craig, c Cooper, b Doctor	0
F. Robins, run out	4
H. J. Knight, b Pestonji	0
A. Brown, b Doctor	1
A. Carter, b Doctor	8
Extras	7

Total 44

PARSEE C.C.

J. D. Norea, b Wittchell	8
R. Pestonji, b Brett	8
M. J. Doctor, run out	0
R. D. Cooper, l.b.w. b Brett	8
J. A. Chinoy, b Wheel	18
F. M. Cama, c and b Brett	0
J. H. Ruttonjee, at Lambie	18
J. M. Master, b Lambie	9
C. B. Movrawala, not out	4
B. P. Tavaris, b Woolley	1
L. K. Irani, run out	1
Extras	4

Total 77

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

CIVIL SERVICE C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Doctor	11	2	19	4
Pestonji	9	2	18	6

PARSEE C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wittchell	8	2	22	1
Brett	9	2	25	3
Iamble	6	—	16	2
Wheel	3	—	8	1
Woolley	2	2	2	1

CRAIGENGOWER CRICKET CLUB v. H.M.S. "CRESSY."

Teams representing the above met at the Happy Valley on the 10th inst., and the match ended in a win for Craigengower C.C. by 25 runs. Appended are the scores and analyses:—

CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

J. L. Stuart, b Holloway	0
M. H. Harteam, c Cornish, b Avins	12
L. E. Lammert, c Parsons, b Holloway	0
A. O. Brawn, b Holloway	51
M. E. Asger, l.b.w., b Lee	9
L. A. Rose, b Lee	3
R. Basa, l.b.w., b Holloway	0
E. Ford, c Curzon, b Lee	7
M. A. Razock, b Holloway	0
H. H. Taylor, b Holloway	0
L. Vincent, not out	0
Extras	5

Total 87

H.M.S. "CRESSY."

McGuire, b Brawn	0
Prince, b Harteam	0
Hamond, c Lammert, b Harteam	7
Cursons, c Ford, b Harteam	1
Holloway, b Brawn	9
Avins, c Taylor, b Brawn	5
Batten, b Brawn	16
Lee, run out	3
Cornish, b Harteam	15
Parsons, l.b.w., b Brawn	2
Alley, not out	1
Extras	3

Total 62

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Holloway	10	3	21	6
Avins	5	—	32	1
Lee	10.3	—	23	3
Parsons	1	—	6	—

H.M.S. "CRESSY."

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Brawn	9	3	26	5
Harteam	8.2	—	33	4

We understand that the *Benlarig*, one of the L-ith fleet of steamers trading out here as the Ben Line, has been sold to a Chinese firm in Singapore. The *Benlarig* is one of the oldest of the company's vessels, and at one time it seemed probable that she would be purchased by a Hongkong firm for coasting purposes.

Shanghai, at the present time, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, seems to be the resort of clever criminals and beachcombers, and it is difficult to draw the line between the two classes. The annual average of convictions of foreigners for misdemeanours and felonies during the past three years almost equals that of the counties, when Shanghai had not, by any means, attained its present state of civilisation.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG F.C. v. VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

There was a match on the 12th inst. at Happy Valley between the above. The teams were as follows:—

H.K.F.C.—C. C. Hickling, goal; T. E. Pierce and J. W. C. Bonnar, backs; G. B. Macdonald, C. T. Kew and R. Kerr, halves; W. R. Lemarchand F. J. Libeaud, C. R. S. Cooper, G. A. Cooke, forwards.

V.R.C.—J. H. R. Hance goal; G. Wilson and G. Wittchell, backs; R. Lapsley, F. R. Herton and J. Fergusson, halves; H. A. Seth, E. Henderson, A. Humphreys H. S. Holmes and H. N. Sayer, forwards.

Referee—Mr. F. Browne.

The game all through was well contested. In the first half the V. R. C. had rather the best of the forward play and when the whistle blew at half-time they were leading by 1—0. In the second half the Club showed up very well and notched two points as against their opponents' one, the game thus resulting in a draw—2 goals each. For the V.R.C. Holmes and Sayer were prominent; some good work was also put in by Seth and Humphreys. On the Club side Bonnar played his consistently good game; Kew was the best of the half-back line, of which Macdonald also was a useful member; and Lemarchand and Libeaud played very well on the wing. Hickling had a good deal to do in goal and did it well.

SHIELD TIE

In the first round of the Hongkong Shield competition, the Royal Engineers played the Army Ordnance Department on the H.K.F.C. ground on Thursday afternoon. The R. E. were the first to score, but the A. O. D. equalised. There was no further scoring in the first half. When full-time was called the scores were level (2 goals each), so an extra half-hour was played, but without altering the result.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., the first race for the Commodore's Cup was sailed. The course was round the rock S.W. of Kauichau and back. The wind at the start was of moderate force and varied in direction from North to North-east, but when the leading boat was near Kauichau it freshened considerably and at times blew with sufficient force to make skippers wish for a reef in their mainsails. The race itself was comparatively uneventful. The prevailing wind made the course a plain sail there and back, and all the yachts except *Colleen* went straight for the mark, keeping S. of Kauichau. *Colleen* went N. of the island, and at one time it appeared that she would score considerably thereby. She came racing along with the first of the strengthening breeze, but before she had gained enough to make up the extra distance she had to travel the stronger wind reached the others and about half of them got round the rock before her. The *Vernon*, who from the start had been drawing slowly away and had made full half her time allowance from *Alanah* by the time the boats had passed Green Island, rapidly increased her lead in the strong wind and rounded the rock some 3 minutes ahead of *Alanah*, who in her turn was between one and two minutes ahead of the next boat. On the way home *Vernon*, though giving her crew a remarkably uncomfortable time sailing as she did in the gusts nearly flat on her side with her lee-rail well under water, slipped still further away and in the end won very easily. *Iris*, sailed by Mr. C. A. Tomes, went well in the strong wind and drew up considerably on *Alanah*. At one time she looked like saving her time (9 minutes) on *Vernon*, but she got badly headed by the wind about the middle of the harbour and only just managed to secure second place on time. The handicap, as will be seen from the annexed times, brought the other boats of all three classes very near together, six of them finishing within 2 minutes on corrected time, but the new boat proved herself far better than her reputation and could have conceded another 4 minutes all round and still have won.

Times at the finish:—

1	Vernon...	4 11 10	Scratch
	Alannah ...	4 19 0	4 16 0
	Kathleen ...	4 23 10	4 17 10
2	Iris ...	4 24 12	4 15 12
	Colleen ...	4 24 47	4 21 47
	Min ...	4 26 49	4 23 49
	Erica ...	4 6 40	4 23 40
	Bonito ...	4 26 42	4 23 42
	Maid Marian ...	4 27 10	4 17 10
	Chanticleer ...	4 28 56	4 16 56
	Doreen ...	4 31 30	4 20 30
3	Payne ...	4 34 52	4 15 52

On Sunday the One-design and 2nd-class boats tried to sail off the 5th Club Race. The weather conditions were more trying than one of the oldest sailing members of the Club could remember to have encountered before in 10 years' experience of racing here. There was a good enough wind to start with, but it did not keep up and the leading boat only reached the finishing line at 5.7, 12 minutes after the time limit for the race had expired. The race will consequently have again to be resailed.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

The prospects of a large entry were ruined by the heavy rain which rendered the course almost unplayable for the last two days of the meeting. The following cards were returned:—

MACEWEN CUP.

Commander Farquhar, R.N.	85—2=83
Mr. A. B. Lowson	89—6=83
Mr. W. J. Saunders	89—15=84
Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N.	100—15=85
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	90—2=88
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	91—1=89
Mr. E. J. Grist	94—5=89

13 entries.

BOGEY AND RICHARDSON CUPS.

Dr. W. L. Martin, R.N. rec.	11 strokes 2 up
Comdr. Farquhar, R.N.	2 " 3 down
Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N.	11 " 4 down
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	2 " 5 down
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	1 " 6 down
Mr. W. J. Saunders	11 " 6 down
Mr. E. J. Grist	4 " 8 down

15 entries.

POOL.

Dr. W. L. Martin, R.N.	92—14=78
Comdr. Farquhar, R.N.	85—2=83
Mr. A. B. Lowson	89—6=83
Mr. W. J. Saunders	93—5=84
Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N.	100—15=85
Mr. C. E. H. Beavis	90—2=88
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	90—1=89
Mr. E. J. Grist	94—5=89

14 entries.

HONGKONG.

The only case of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week was one of small-pox, the victim, a Chinese, dying.

A coolie was struck and knocked down by a locomotive at Quarry Bay on Wednesday, receiving injuries from which he died in the Government Civil Hospital.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 11th January were 229 non-Chinese and 58 Chinese to the former, and 54 non-Chinese and 2,766 Chinese to the latter institution.

In the current *Government Gazette* the following alteration in the rules for Kowloon School is published:—Rule V is amended to read as follows: In the case of a child joining in the middle of a term, fees will be charged from the beginning of the month in which such child joins.

The following returns of the average amount of banknotes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st December, 1902, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are published in the *Gazette*:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	\$ 1,657	\$ 1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	11,232.65	5,600,000
National Bank of China, Limited	442,145	150,000
Total	\$15,276,437	\$7,050,000

The fire in Kowloon City the other day, it now transpires, was caused by a lighted match dropped on some inflammable material by a little girl, and did damage, which is uninsured, to the amount of \$10,000.

The staff of the Public Works Department has been increased by the arrival on the *Bengloe* of a new inspector of buildings, who will look after Kowloon district. Another inspector of buildings is expected to arrive within the next two or three weeks.

We are officially authorised to state that subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £1.1s. per share; bonus of 10s. per share; add to the reserve fund \$750,000; and carry forward about \$1,425,000.

In connection with the recent fatal assault in Kowloon City, when a Chinaman attacked with a chopper his wife (who died soon afterwards), and his father-in-law, mother-in-law, and sister-in-law, we learnt on Thursday that the old man had died in hospital from his injuries. The two victims still remaining alive are doing well, but it will probably be three weeks before they are able to give evidence in the case against the prisoner.

The new twin-screw river steamer *San Cheung* went on her trial-trip on the 12th inst., and made the excellent time of 12½ knots over the measured mile. This boat was built by Kwong Fuk Cheong, and engined by the Tin Hing Company, under the supervision of Mr. H. F. Carmichael. She is owned by the Chung On Steamship Co., is destined for the Hongkong Canton trade, and has accommodation for 1,100 passengers. Captain Murphy is in command and Mr. H. Clarke is the chief engineer. Among the party on board to witness the trial trip were Captain Goddard and Mr. W. A. Crake. The *San Cheung* will make her first trip to Canton to-day.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 1st January:—Rereels.—A sale of 10 Bales each Nos. 1 and 2, has been made at \$860 average. At the moment there is nothing further on offer and the stock is confined to a few small parcels held off sale by country holders. Filatures.—Continue in fairly good demand for Europe at full rates. Prices here are very firmly maintained with comparatively little offering for delivery this side of China New Year. We quote as paid: Wing Cheong Sing 11/13, King Seng 11/13, Yee Wo Loong 9/11, Wing King L n 9/11 \$1,130, Wing Wo Lun 9/11, Quan Wo On 9/11 \$1,120, Cheong Koo 9/11, \$1,110, U Han Cheong 10/12 \$1,075, Miu King Cheong 11/13 \$1,065, Kwong Shun Cheong, Kwong Sun Ching, Kwong Sung Hang 11/13 (4th crop) \$1,060, Kwong Wo Hang 11/13 \$1,050, Cheong Sing 13/15 \$1,020, Wai King Wo 18/22 \$945. Best 3c Ordre have latterly come into improved inquiry up to \$3.30 average for 11/13, 13/15, \$885 for 14/18 and \$870 for 18/22. There is however very little stock. Short-reels.—The American demand rules dull and these sorts, being consequently neglected and comparatively cheap, have lately attracted some attention among European buyers on the basis of \$1,030 for Extra 14/16, \$950-960 for Best 2nd Class 14/16. Reelers have stopped producing these sorts and the supply becomes daily more limited. Waste.—Values have further advanced under the influence of the enquiry reported in our last. Native speculation has again become active and export buying has been checked.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Shakloong, No. 1, White	\$8.10 to \$8.15 pcl.
Do. " 2, White	7.00 to 7.65 "
Shakloong, No. 1, Brown	6.05 to 6.10 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.85 to 5.90 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.00 to 8.15 "
Do. No. 1, White	7.45 to 7.50 "
Do. " 1, Brown	5.75 to 5.80 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.15 to 12.20 "
Shekloong "	9.60 to 9.65 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—Large demands having come forward, the prices are further advancing.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.55 to 3.60
" Round, Good quality	5.55 to 5.60
" Long	5.90 to 5.95
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.70 to 3.75
" Garden, " No. 1	4.55 to 4.60
" White	6.00 to 6.05
" Fine Cargo	6.20 to 6.25

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—Moderate business at a rice of \$1 to \$1.10 per picul. Stock, about 1,200 bales.

Bombay,	23.00 to 23.50 picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca,	24.00 to 26.75 "
Shanghai and Japanese,	26.50 to 27.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	26.50 to 27.50 "

Sales:—400 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 16th January:—The improved feeling noted in last report has developed into a strong enquiry, and during the interval a considerable business (both spot and to arrive) has been done at an advance of \$1 to \$3 in Nos. 6s., 8s. and 10s., \$1 to \$2 in No. 12s., and 20s., and \$1 to \$1 in No. 16s. The demand has run on almost all grades and counts, but is entirely speculative, as at the moment there is nothing doing in the interior. After a spell of unprecedented prolonged depression in the country dealers anticipate a brisk reaction and extensive revival of the trade on the expiry of the China New Year (28th instant), and having in view the denuded condition of the market, both here and in the interior, are endeavouring to lay in stock to enable them to meet the expected country demand before prices go up much further. Importers are very firm, and strengthened by telegraphic advices from Bombay are still asking an advance on present quotations for the few bales of best spinnings remaining in stock. The inquiry still continues and shows no signs of abatement, but shortness of supplies is affecting business. The market closes strong and tending upward.

Local Manufacture:—The local mill has commenced spinning the lower and coarser counts, and the No. 8s. are already placed on the market. The yarn is much liked in consequence of its weight and finish and has fetched a very stiff rate. Business reported during the interval amounts to about 1,200 bales No. 8s. and 10s. at \$95 and \$90 to \$100 respectively.

Japanese:—The high prices now demanded for and scarcity of Bombay No. 20s., have diverted the attention of buyers to these threads and about 2,000 bales of No. 20s. are reported to have changed hands at an appreciation of \$2 per bale, say, Red Peacock at \$127 to \$128, Yellow Joss at \$123, Double Stag and Three Kings at \$126; close strong.

Raw Cotton:—The local market for Indian descriptions has ruled very quiet; exporters to Japan have been conspicuous by their absence, and the local mill is not in evidence. A small business in Superfine Bengals of about 375 bales at from \$244 to \$26 is reported. Sales of 200 bales China Cotton at \$27 have transpired. Estimated unsold stock about 2,000 Bales Indian and 200 bales Chinese. Quotations are \$22 to \$36 Indian and \$26 to \$28 Chinese.

Exchange on India slightly weakened and closes weak to-day. Rs. 117½ for Post, on 100 Rs. 76½.

The undernoted business in spinnings is reported to have been done during the three weeks ending 15th inst.

Indian:—Total sales, 1,200 bales No. 6s., 6,500 bales No. 8s., 1,000 bales No. 12s., 500 bales No. 14s., 1,000 bales No. 16s., 6,680 bales No. 20s. prices showing an advance of one to two taels and market closing strong. Estimated unsold stock about 48,000 bales.

Japanese:—A quiet business has been done in these, amounting to 5,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 87½ to 91½ for No. 16s., and Tls. 91½ to 93½ for No. 20s.

Local:—Sales aggregate 10,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 81 to 82 for No. 10s., Tls. 82/83 for No. 12s., Tls. 85 to 88 for No. 14s., and Tls. 88/89 for No. 16s.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 16th January.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 86.00 to \$137.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	138.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.45 to 2.70
8.4 lbs.	3.30 to 3.92
9 to 10 lbs.	4.00 to 5.51
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.81 to 3.01	
58 to 60 " 3.45 to 3.75	
64 to 66 " 4.00 to 5.50	
Fine 5.75 to 8.00	
Book-folds 4.75 to 7.30	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.78 to 1.50	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.03 to 2.30	
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.35 to 2.75	
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 2.40 to 2.55	
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.95 to 3.50	
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.30 to 3.99	
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.) 4.75 to 7.30	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs) 1.50 to 4.85	
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DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted to —	
Velvets—Black, 22 in 0.27 to 0.60	
Velveteens—18 in 0.23 to 0.28	

Woolens—

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.31 to 5.00	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.65 to 2.25	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 3.00	

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 6.85 to 8.25	
Assorted 7.00 to 9.40	
Camlets—Assorted 15.50 to 34.00	
Lastings—30 yd., 31 inches Assorted 12.50 to 17.90	
Orleans—Plain 10.00 to —	

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 0.65 to 0.80	
Fine quality, 1.40 to 2.10	

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod 4.70 to —	
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng. 4.70 to —	
Swedish Bar 4.80 to —	
Small Round Rod 5.10 to —	
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 6.25 to —	
Wire, 16/25. 9.50 to —	
Old Wire Rope 3.50 to —	
Lead, J.B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.50 to —	
Australian 8.50 to —	
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz. 41.00 to —	
Vivian's 14 20 oz. 41.00 to —	
Elliot's 14 20 oz. 41.00 to —	
Composition Nails 61.00 to —	
Japan Copper, Slabs. 39.00 to —	
Tin 98.00 to —	

Tin-Plates 8.40 to —	
Steel, to 1 6.50 to —	

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver 18.00 to —	
Window Glass 5.75 to —	
Kerosene Oil 3.00 to —	

SHANGHAI, 7th January (from Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report of 31st December).—Our last circular was issued on 23rd instant, and although the Christmas holidays have intervened a large business nevertheless has been done. As mentioned in our last that the Tientsin merchants were the chief buyers they have again taken the most prominent part in the operations during the interval and the symptoms indicating that the movement was purely speculative have been more than confirmed. The principal apparent factor that prompted this movement has been the advance in the Tientsin rate of exchange. We have been informed that there is every reason to believe this is quite true as native exchange from Tientsin will, in future, be on the basis of sycee and that the "chop" system in native Bank orders may now be considered a thing of the past. This welcome change has been enforced by Mandarin influence and it is only to be hoped it will be permanent. There has been a general demand and most goods have received some attention, the bulk of the business has been done in American Goods,

chiefly sheetings, and while the turnover amongst second hands has been large it is generally admitted that a total of between fifty and sixty thousand bales has been arranged for arrival in the spring on a sterling basis. Here and there some cash sales have been made but they are far from being general and the bulk of the business has been for payment just before the opening of the Tientsin season. The other outports are comparatively quiet although Szechuen continues to take a few lines of their particular goods. As noted above New York is meeting this market but the same cannot be said of Manchester where prices are firm and it is only in exceptional cases that business has been done although we are informed that in many cases the differences have been small. In Liverpool Cotton is now quoted 4½d. Shipments from England for the fortnight ending 19th instant amounted to sixteen million yards. This circular closes an unfortunate year for importers who up to the end of April had very fine prospects. After that date however the collapse in both local and sterling rates of exchange and the firmness of Home markets all combined against them and the last portion of the year until a fortnight ago was hopeless. For the coming year we wish them prosperity.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, January 16th, 1903.—Enquiry has fallen off somewhat during the week under review, and the transactions booked have not been very numerous. Rates generally however continue fairly steady, with an improving tendency in some directions.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been booked at the advanced rate of \$675, and continue in request. London is unchanged at £64. Nationals are wanted at \$24.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have sold at \$470, and a few more shares are probably obtainable at the rate. China Traders continue on offer at \$58, and Cantons at \$67. North Chinas are wanted at Tls. 177½.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs have changed ownership at the reduced rate of \$325. Chinas have sold at \$5 and \$85½ and are in further request at the higher rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are slightly easier with sales and sellers at \$37½. Indo-Chinas have improved to \$87 buyers. China Manilas sold at 26 and \$25 and are on offer at the lower quotation. Douglas are after sales at \$45 are on the market at \$44½. Star Ferries (old) have sold and are in further request at \$25, the new issue is obtainable at \$15. Shell Transports have been booked at £18s. 6d. and are still enquired for.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$89 and \$90 cash, and equivalent rates forward, and a further cash demand exists. Luzons are on offer at \$12½.

MINING.—Punjoms sold and are in request at \$2. Raubs are wanted at \$7½.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold in small lots at \$207½ and \$205, and more shares are obtainable at the lower rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$91 to \$93 and close steady at the latter rate. New Amoy Docks are quiet at \$40.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are unchanged with sales and further buyers at \$184. Kowloon Lands continue in request at \$31½. West Point can be obtained at \$56. Humphreys Estates have been booked at \$12½ and \$12.15 and continue in demand at \$12. Hongkong Hotels are somewhat better with sales at \$142. Oriente Hotels can be procured at \$35.

COTTON MILLS.—We have heard of no business under this head, and quotations are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investment's are wanted at \$15. Green Island Cements are offering at \$21½ after sales at this rate and \$21½. A. S. Watsons have sold at \$14½. Electrics are steady at \$13.10 (old) and \$6.65 (new). Dairy Farms are in some request at \$11. China Providents have declined to \$9½ sales and further sellers. Universals can be procured at \$24½.

MEMOS.—China Provident Loan & Mortgage Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting to-morrow, the 17th instant. West Point Building Co., Ltd., Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd., and Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 26th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$675, buyers (L'don, £64.)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$24, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$24.
Found. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$35.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$25, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$10, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$90, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$400, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$30, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40.
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 44.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$30.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$21½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$13.10, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$327.
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$0	\$11½.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$142, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$93.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$120.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$205, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$167½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$85½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$58, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sales
North China	\$25	Tls. 177½, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$470, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$133.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$184, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$314, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$57, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$124, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Pcs. 250	\$60, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$11, sellers
Punjom	\$10	\$2, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	75 cents, sellers
Raubs	18	\$7½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$40.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$35, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Robinson Co. Piano, Ltd.	\$50	\$20, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$25, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$44½, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$37½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$87.
Shel. Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£1.8s. 6d. buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sales & buy.
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$15, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8½, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$155.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$22½, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sales & sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 16th January (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Since the opening of the Market on the 5th inst., a very limited business has been put through, consisting chiefly of Indos, Farnhams, and Lang-ats and at the time of writing the market is in a very uncertain condition, and we fear lower prices in most stock. INSURANCE.—No business reported. SHIPPING.—Indos. Cash business has been done at Tls. 62, Tls. 62½ and Tls. 61, and Tls. 64 for February delivery. SUGARS.—Perak Sugars can be obtained at Tls. 70. MINING.—Raubs are wanted at \$7, Punjoms offering at \$24½, Chinese Engineering and Mining Shares have been placed at Tls. 8½. DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GO-

14, Feiching, Chinese str., from Canton.
 14, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 14, J. D. Spreckels, Amr. brig, from Guam.
 14, Kersaint, French gunboat, from Haiphong.
 14, Copack, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
 14, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
 14, Tingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 14, Tirol, Austrian str., from Singapore.
 14, Wakama'su Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 14, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 15, Austria, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 15, Braemar, British str., from London.
 15, Hangeang, British str., from Canton.
 15, Hikosa Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 15, Kingsing, British str., from Wuhu.
 15, Kiukiang, British str., from Canton.
 15, Koh ichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 15, Lena, Norwegian str., from Sourabaya.
 15, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Hoilow.
 15, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 15, Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
 16, Bullarat, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Irene, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 16, Mercedes, British str., from Wellington.
 16, P. C. C. Kiao, German str., from Bangkok.

January— DEPARTURES.

12, Algerine, British sloop, for Canton.
 12, Darmstadt, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, Haiphong, French str., for Haiphong.
 12, Hangeang, British str., for Canton.
 12, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
 12, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 12, Kaohidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 12, Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 12, Laos, French str., for Europe.
 12, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 12, M. Rickners, German str., for Bangkok.
 12, Shimosa, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Taisun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Taurus, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 12, Tsintau, German str., for Paklo.
 13, C. Ferd. Laeisz, German str., for Tsintau.
 13, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 13, Hiasang, British str., for Singapore.
 13, Hoilao, French str., for Hoilow.
 13, Hupeh, British str., for Canton.
 13, Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.
 13, Mogul, British str., for New York.
 13, Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Singan, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Sishan, British str., for Amoy.
 13, Taifu, German str., for Saigon.
 13, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 14, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 14, Bunei, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Buledi, British str., for Kobe.
 14, Cressy, British cruiser, for Mira Bay.
 14, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 14, Gibraltar, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 14, Maohaw, German str., for Bangkok.
 14, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Tamsui.
 14, Silesia, German str., for Hamburg.
 15, S. Iva, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 15, Amara, British str., for Samarang.
 15, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoilow.
 15, Ceylon, British str., for Yokohama.
 15, Feiching, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Gloucester City, British str., for Java.
 15, Hansa, German str., for Canton.
 15, Katsuyama Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 15, Oopack, British str., for Patavia.
 15, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 15, Selan, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 15, Taishan, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Tingsang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Tirol, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 16, Hangeang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Kin-sing, British str., for Canton.
 16, Kersaint, French gunboat, for Canton.
 16, Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 16, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. C. A. Clivio, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. N. De Noie, Mrs. E. H. Peery, Mrs. F. M. Kendall, Mrs. G. W. Hawley, Misses B. E. Peery, C. Clivio, H. E. Peery, and J. J. Peery, Master B. Kendall, Dr. H. B. Porter, Capt. F. A. Kofod, Messrs. W. B. Fairfield, F. M. Kendall, P. Fried-

richson, G. W. Hawley, R. D. Dunlop, Geo. Eckley, W. J. Gick, J. M. Lucy and J. W. Owens.

Per *Kaifong*, from Cebu, &c., Mrs. E. A. Mayer, Miss M. B. McClellan and Mr. Ray Howell.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from Shanghai, Col. and Mrs. Fullerton, Mrs. Fisher, Dr. Levitoff, Messrs. Kuhu and A. Thomson.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. E. Thomas, Armstrong, Midwood, J. J. Dunne, H. P. White, J. Santos, F. H. Basus and B. Twyman.

Per *Laos*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mrs. Veynell and infant, Mrs. A. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Kent, Messrs. Robert Alexander, Poliakoff, Antoine Valmas, Shlini Leonildo, Foyehman, Kastelyn, Kayima, C. Aso, K. Aso, Nakane, K. Hasejawa, Moraoka, and Maisan; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. E. Bucchi; for Singapore, Mr. A. B. Cook; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Miramon and Mr. Fioravanti; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Morisse and infant, Messrs. Rubio de Barzila, Paturel, Gagnin, Arthur Gran, Richard Glaser, Boyer, Paupion, Morol and Gorgues.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Miss Miller, Dr. Canlious, Lieut. G. Hesson, Messrs. B. J. Epes, A. L. Knight, T. Holmes, R. W. Fquires, W. C. Fitch, G. R. Adams, F. Izaparsin and Dr. Rowlett.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mrs. Hanigan, Misses M. Art and Elwine, Rev. H. R. Talbot, Messrs. A. Thal-r, L. Boutioun, S. R. Hugais, F. B. Lugerall, S. Tamago and Boelho.

Per *Darmstadt*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Messrs. A. Gehle and Paul Butzeckow; from Southampton, Mrs. G. St. John; from Genoa, Mr. and Miss Webb, Inspector Kohler, Messrs. A. Jahrand and G. Lisiga; from Naples, Mr. Vickers and family, Messrs. Paul Fuller, James Dunn and R. Redpath; from Port Said, Mr. R. T. Chard and family; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, Miss Lewis and Mr. T. R. Destelan; from Penang, Mr. Crawford; from Singapore, Misses Lily and Lama Kasten, Dr. Purrie, Messrs. C. Ecoth, Diener, Jessen and S. Tagire.

Per *Diamante*, from Amoy for Hongkong, Mr. N. E. Moller.

Per *Enma Luyken*, from Saigon, Miss Gastmann and Capt. Wiebken.

Per *Ceylon*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Gedge and child, Miss Edwards, Messrs. J. S. Fenwick, J. B. Anderson and S. T. Wenham; from Singapore, Messrs. H. Haines and J. Gauld; for Manila, from London, Mr. L. E. Holden; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. J. E. Orr and D. Manson; for Kobe, from London, Mr. W. A. Brent.

Per *Kong Beng*, from Bangkok, Mr. D. O. Witt.

Per *John D. Spreckels*, from Guam, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and child and Miss Stimpson.

Per *Bengloe*, from London, &c., Messrs. Cordell, Crooks and Dobbs.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Win'cn and infant, Messrs. J. Shields and F. B. Johrhae.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Capt. and Mrs. J. P. Lowe, Mrs. Sainty, Mr. and Mrs. A. Donald and two children, Mr. and Mrs. W. Donaldson and infant, Messrs. A. Denison, C. Puckett, Gahimall and Capt. H. D. Jones; for Shanghai, Messrs. D. Mishart and J. Woolacott; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. K. Nateshima and Mr. S. Tajiri; for Kobe, Rev. and Mrs. C. H. B. Woodd, Messrs. K. Matsukata, T. Shinoda and Dr. S. Tani; for Yokohama, Major and Miss Arbuthnot, Messrs. Schneider, D. Uchiyama and T. Midzuno, Major Z. Haraguchi, Capt. J. Nagano, Drs. Hashida, K. Saito and A. Tomi a.

Per *Austria*, from Trieste, Dr. Eckstein and Mr. Henke.

Per *Taiwan*, from Sydney, Misses Chomley and McMillan, Messrs. Proate, Peachey, Smith, Butt, Turner, Bullen, Cling and Cola; from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Curry, Miss Miller, Messrs. Martinez, Harris, Holt, Harding, Rolaud and Jesus.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Trevoux, Richarme, Jeanjaquet and Fau; from Singapore, Messrs. Van der Pergh, Regout, Eckenstein, Coppin, Ismail and Lyon; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. Leferre Pontalis, Mrs. Kame, Messrs.

Sambuc, Mossard, Hugues, de Ritter, Mercier, Jegorel, Wissao and Peyrical; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Prentice, Nielsen, Lafont, Dubois, Bogomoloff and Vallet; from Singapore, Messrs. Mamini, Fortunato and Ippiat; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs. Richarme, Messrs. Bonté, Martinie, Boson, Dumanoir and Rousset; from Singapore, Mr. Levy.

Per *Rohilla Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hedemann, Master E. and Miss A. Hedemann, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Reed, Mrs. J. E. Mead, Capt. and Mrs. L. P. Howell, Surgeon and Mrs. J. Farrow, Mr. and Mrs. Barrington and child, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Misses Yvanovich, I. G. Bryan, Hassler and G. Hargis, Capt. C. D. Lloyd, W. R. Van Tayl, M. E. Robert, W. B. Summerall, S. Weirick, J. E. Mead, H. D. R. Phelan, J. B. Peck, E. F. Horr, A. S. Miller, W. G. Millen, A. D. Williams and W. T. James, Majors J. H. Peshine, R. R. Ames, G. P. Road, J. C. Reifnyder and W. P. Evans, Lieut. C. F. Williams, Surgeon E. F. Mansfield, Messrs. G. A. Yvanovich, W. Dennis and H. Koyama.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rohilla Maru*, for Manila, Mrs. Wm. Francis, Mrs. C. Clivio and Miss E. Chvio, Mr. and Mrs. Nishi, Mrs. T. Mumezaki, Misses Y. Shibasaki, F. H. Gray, Tullis and O. Capra, Messrs. Johann Testob, C. H. French, T. P. Jackson, O. F. Coleman, W. B. Fairfield, F. Rosario, G. E. Howel, Henry Y. M. Levot, F. E. White, C. V. Osten, H. O. Wellman and T. Kida.

Per *Haiphong*, for Haiphong, Mr. and Mrs. Burkholder, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hewett, Mr. and Mrs. E. Nathan, Miss Nathan, Mrs. M. Austin, Mrs. J. Forbes, Mrs. G. Cooper, Messrs. P. Hattory, H. Spellmann, Moison, Valinas, S. Leonildo, Drs. P. Ritter and L. Vitoff.

Per *Lars*, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wood, Messrs. Born, Strasser, Chye Hupp, Glide, Eybe and Capt. Fay; for Colombo, Major and Mrs. J. J. Braganca and Mr. B. Wyso; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Mettetal, Messrs. Rouget, Bloche, Amiard, Pinton, H. Cornely and R. C. de Ychausti and Capt. Despreaux.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, for London, &c., Mrs. C. E. Merrill, Col. and Mrs. Fullerton, Mr. and Mrs. G. Nishi, Mrs. T. Takatsuji, Capt. Miyahara, Messrs. A. P. Gentry, K. Kuhn, G. Marlington, J. S. MacNab, S. Kollat, O. Wilhamson, G. May, O. Andersen, Clas Loppe, I. Watanb, M. D. Jupp, Kyohara, D. Yoshimi, R. Nomura, T. Mayeda, J. Shig no, B. Sugiyama and B. M. Xavier.

Per *Darmstadt*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. Carl Matthiessen, Messrs. M. Goldstein, D. Alfouso, A. J. Xavier, J. C. de Silva, C. M. Roza and T. Domizer; for Nagasaki, Miss Obtoume; for Kobe, Mr. R. Meraboff; for Yokohama, Mr. von Jantzen.

Per *Tosa Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Messrs. G. J. I. assen, T. Blaylock, James McKay, F. W. Darby, H. S. Ahmet, J. Kanda, S. Muramatsu. Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Drs. J. B. Wiley and A. H. Kettner, Messrs. Paul W. F. D. Gangnan, J. Armstrong, W. J. Mathews and Hagata.

Per *Empress of China*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. E. Kent, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Miller, Miss Miller, Mrs. S. E. Syke and three children, Messrs. L. Midwood, P. Witkowski, K. Nakashima, N. E. Moller and H. Coleaux; for Kobe, Messrs. B. A. dos Caldas and Oto; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. A. Weil and infant; for San Francisco, Mrs. Harriyan and Mr. W. C. Fitch; for Montreal, Mr. E. Thonras; for Minneapolis, Mr. R. W. Squires; for London, Mrs. J. Z. Davis.

Per *Salazie*, for Shanghai, Mrs. J. Vianna, Messrs. B. Vert, H. Chastenot, D. H. Wishart, I. H. Woolacott, A. Vianna, B. Cohen, L. Smith, J. W. Lorentzen and Rev. Demange; for Kobe, Miss T. Shizu and Mr. F. von Ritter; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. G. Richarme, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. P. Berthelot, Mrs. G. Taylor Evans, Mrs. R. D. Evans, Miss Evans, Dr. K. Lor. oz Messrs. H. I. Sewall, H. Hubert, A. Saboo and K. Abbe.